

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Rise in Homicides Alarms Police Two Killings Mar Holidays; Victims Brought Their Killers Home

by Allen White

In the wake of the murders of two gay men and 117 other homicides in San Francisco in 1986, Community United Against Violence and the San Francisco Tavern Guild will meet tomorrow (Friday, Jan. 9) with Sup. John Molinari to plan a strategy for community action.

David Rung, a 40-year-old federal park ranger, became the city's first homicide for 1987. Police investigators said Rung was murdered soon after he returned to his Sunset District home from partying in the Castro District on New Year's Eve.

Police speculated that the killer may have come home with Rung from a bar. Rung's apartment on Moraga Street was ransacked and his car was stolen.

A 10-year veteran of the National Park Service, Rung was assigned to the Ocean Beach unit of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. He had gained notice in November when he discovered that someone was prospecting for titanium on Ocean Beach without a permit. Rung's picture appeared in Time magazine two weeks ago in a story on the subject.

Gary Smith, another gay man, was murdered during the final days of 1986. Smith, in his late thirties, was last seen on Dec. 21. His body was found in his Golden Gate Avenue apartment on Dec. 27. It is believed that he, like David Rung, picked up a person in a gay bar and took them home.

The year 1986 ended with a total of 117 homicides in San Francisco. This is the highest

(Continued on page 17)

'No Gay Olympics, No '96 Olympics,' Says Britt

Sup. Harry Britt introduced legislation to the Board of Supervisors Jan. 5 proposing to remove the city from any efforts to bring the 1996 Olympics to San Francisco. Britt said that until the Olympics organizers allow the Gay Games use of the name Olympics and end their harassment of Games' founder, Dr. Tom Waddell, "San Francisco should not be welcoming their bigotry to town."

(Continued on page 2)

Today

Where's the Vigil? That was the question in Oakland this week as the ARC/AIDS Vigil there mysteriously disappeared. Charlie Linebarger reports, page 21.

Insanely eclectic, is how David Lamble characterizes Frances Fitzgerald's new book *Cities on a Hill* which gives a capsule history of the Castro. Lamble interviews Fitzgerald, page 26.

\$2.6 million is what the city lost, reports Marcy Rein, because AIDS service and education programs were low in minority involvement. See page 18.

Why does Steve Warren call Joan Rivers' Late Show a dog? See page 29.



Lesbians and gay men cheer when Ontario's legislature gives the okay to gay rights. (Photo: Ian King/The Body Politic)

Ontario Says Yes To Gay Rights

From The Body Politic

TORONTO—A historic victory for the gay movement in Canada was confirmed on Dec. 16, when the legislature of the province of Ontario gave final approval to a bill which adds sexual orientation to the province's human rights code. Lesbians and gay men will now be protected against discrimination in employment, accommodation and services.

Ontario, Canada's most populous province, now joins Quebec, which amended its human rights charter nine years ago to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. The two provinces make up more than 60 percent of Canada's population. Similar moves are pending in the province of Manitoba and in the Yukon Territory. And earlier this year, the federal government announced its intention to legislate equal rights for gays in areas under its jurisdiction.

(Continued on page 2)



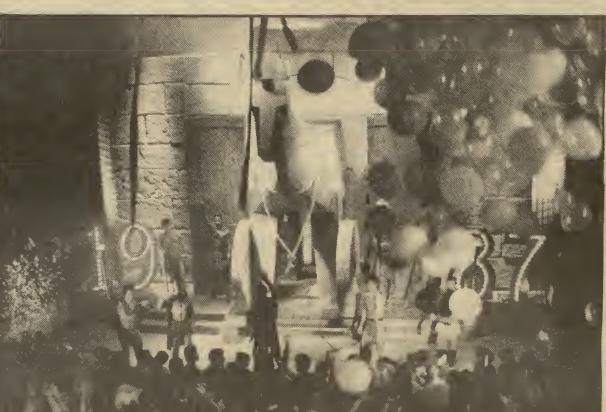
Sup. Harry Britt (Photo: Rink)



Practice Makes . . .

Check this stable out, boys. Performers at the Giftcenter put in a last-minute rehearsal for a New Year's Eve celebration with a modern Trojan horse.

(Photo: Savage Photography)



. . . Perfect!!

At Midnight, the "mane"-less attraction made an appearance as balloons fell on the crowd at the I-Beam's Giftcenter party. For more on the holiday parties, please turn to page 14.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)



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TODAY**



By
**DR. RICK
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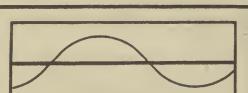
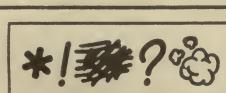


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The New Democratic Party's Evelyn Gigantes, front row center, leads colleagues in favor of gay rights in Ontario.
(Photo: Gerald Hannon/The Body Politic)

Ontario

(Continued from page 1)

Agitation by Ontario gays for an amendment to the province's human rights code began in 1972 and has included the occupation of the office of the province's attorney general and the disruption of the legislature by demonstrators who handcuffed themselves to the railings of the public gallery. The campaign has been carried on since 1975 by the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario (CGRO), which includes 22 member groups in 17 Ontario cities.

The current round of agitation began last May 6, when MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly's) Evelyn Gigantes, a member of the opposition New Democratic Party, moved in committee to add sexual orientation to the human rights code. The motion was accepted by the committee and was added to Bill 7, an omnibus bill to bring a number of Ontario statutes into conformity with Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The equality rights section is part of Canada's constitution and came into effect in 1985.

The inclusion of gay rights in Bill 7 prompted the formation of the Coalition for Family Values (CFV). The CFV was composed of a number of fundamentalist Protestant churches, the Roman Catholic Church and the National Citizens' Coalition, a rightwing pressure group with corporate backing. When press conferences failed to reverse the Liberal government's support for Bill 7, the CFV launched a grassroots campaign to stir up opposition. Mailings delivered to every household in selected areas urged recipients to write or call MLAs. The mailing relied on a subtle invocation of the supposed threat to children posed by equal rights for gays: "Who should decide with whom your children can associate . . . you or the Ontario government?"

A write-and-call campaign in support of the bill, organized by

CGRO and Toronto's Right To Privacy Committee, mobilized thousands of gays and lesbians across the province, and was reinforced by a vigorous lobbying campaign at the legislature. The joint effort was coordinated by David Rayside, a professor of political science at the University of Toronto.

By the time legislative debate on the gay rights provisions began November 25, MLAs reported receiving thousands of pieces of mail and thousands of phone calls on both sides of the issue. The debate over gay rights went on for five days.

Some highlights of the debate:

Conservative Noble Villeneuve warned that Quebec's declining birthrate was due to gay rights legislation enacted in that province in 1977.

Conservative party leader Larry Grossman, who represents a heavily gay area of downtown Toronto, broke with the majority of his own party to support the bill. He was joined by just three other members of his party. Grossman virtually apologized to gays and lesbians in the public gallery for the homophobic statements of some of his Conservative colleagues: "Some of the speeches will have been, to take it to its extreme, arguments that would have made them quite angry. If we were in their circumstances, we might not have sat as calmly and respectfully as they did."

Grossman then went on to attack the CFV for attempting to intimidate legislators. "That cannot become the way for Ontario," he said. "Neither should they decide to redouble their efforts and prove that, indeed, anything approaching Falwellism . . . is appropriate in the society we have built here."

The debate was briefly disrupted by an opponent of Bill 7, who shouted "Liar!" from the public gallery at Liberal attorney general Ian Scott, as he spoke in favor of the bill. The man was escorted from the chamber by a security guard.

secure the 1996 Olympics "until and unless the International Olympics Committee and the United States Olympics Committee drop all litigation surrounding this issue against the Gay Games and Dr. Waddell."

San Francisco hosted the Gay Games in 1982 and 1986, with athletes from around the world. The city has supported the Games financially and as a matter of policy since they were established.

The Games were first designed to be named Gay Olympics, until the International Olympics Committee and United States

Premier David Peterson wound up the debate, criticizing the language of some Conservative opponents of the bill: "I say to myself, supposing that, when one of my children was 16 or 18, he came to me and said, 'Dad, I am a homosexual.' What would you do then? Would you give your child some of the speeches we have heard in this House in the last six days and throw him out the door?"

Peterson added that, "I think we can all walk out of this House tonight saying, 'We have done the right thing for Ontario and we are all proud to support it!'"

The vote on the gay rights clause was taken Dec. 2. When the result of the vote (64-45 in favor) was announced at 6:03 p.m., spectators in the public gallery—mostly lesbians and gay men—broke into prolonged cheers and applause. A number of legislators joined in while some of the spectators broke down in tears.

David Rayside, who coordinated the campaign for Bill 7, was elated. "This is a victory for human dignity and tolerance, a victory over prejudice and hatred," he said. "Our opponents were much more powerful than we had expected, making this final victory that much more significant."

In Ottawa, MP Svend Robinson, long a champion of gay rights in the federal parliament, said: "The hateful, ignorant and homophobic outpourings of many opposed to the amendment are evidence enough of the need for action. While laws will not change such hateful minds, at least they will go some distance towards preventing these ideas from being used to discriminate against gays and lesbians. Ontario has taken an important first step on the long and often painful road toward equality."

Sexual orientation is now included in human rights legislation in two Canadian provinces, two Australian states (New South Wales and South Australia), two U.S. states (California and Wisconsin) and nationally in Norway and France.

Olympic Committees sued to prohibit use of the word "Olympics." Additionally, the Organizing Committees have sued Dr. Tom Waddell, a former Olympic athlete and founder of the Gay Games.

"Since the Olympics Committees have not tried to stop events like the Dog, Rat, Crab Cooking, Armenian and Special Olympics, their efforts to stop the Gay Olympics are clearly bigoted. The Olympics spirit and San Francisco spirit do not allow us to participate in this kind of senseless discrimination," said Britt.

Empire Accuses Pickets Of Intimidating Customers

S&L Says AIDS Lit. OK But No Newspapers In Lobby

by Charles Linebarger

Pickets from Citizens For Medical Justice besieged Empire Savings and Loan last week on Castro Street complaining about a lack of access to distribute community information and newspapers in the institution's lobby. More pickets are promised for this week. In the meantime, management of the Castro Street Empire branch responded to the picketer's charges, saying that information on AIDS could be displayed on the premises.

"I don't really know why they are there," said Mark Fulham, "They say it's because we're not distributing any AIDS literature, but we're willing to put AIDS literature out there if anyone brings any in. I think what they're really concerned about is having the Bay Area Reporter in the lobby."

"Empire's corporate policy nationwide is that we don't distribute any periodicals," continued Fulham. "It's not the policy of the employees here, it's nationwide."

Fulham told the B.A.R. that Empire's headquarters in Buffalo, New York is aware of the problem in San Francisco concerning community access. "They've drawn up a letter for us to give to people who are concerned. The thrust of the letter is that we reinvest all of the money that we loan out, in this community, or in the San Francisco Bay Area."

Business at Empire is better than ever, according to Fulham. "It's busier here this week than ever. The deposits are coming in, and we're not going to change our policy."

There were no pickets at Empire on Monday, Jan. 5, because members of Citizens For Medical Justice were in Sacramento to protest Gov. George Deukmejian's inauguration. But Jay Randal, a member of the group, told B.A.R. that the picketers will be out again later this week.

Randal said that he thought Empire's removal of gay newspapers and other literature from its lobby was a "slap in the face of the gay community."

"I took out an account at this branch because they were gay and lesbian, and I think most of their depositors are gay and lesbian. They say they want to be more like Bank of America. Well, if they had 500 branches they could act like Bank of America. They have a well-defined gay and lesbian target population and if they want to change that, fine, but it shouldn't go unnoticed."

The picketing of Empire last week was largely uneven, though the picketers held their ground through most of the week. Said Keith Griffith, a member of Citizens For Medical Justice, "Fulham came out every day telling us we had to keep moving or they would call the police. And Sydenstricker (Bud Sydenstricker, vice-president of the Castro branch) came out and said he would call the police if (one of the pickets) didn't tone down his rhetoric."

According to Sydenstricker,

T-Room Busts

A number of individuals have reported that the San Francisco Police are patrolling and making arrests in the restrooms in the Marina Green area.

"We had over four customers in a half-hour period who said they were physically intimidated by the picketers. I went out and asked them not to threaten or intimidate our customers." He added, "We really need to concentrate on being a financial institution. We're not a reading lounge, we're not a library. We want to use our space for financial information."

A meeting has been set this week between Citizens For Medical Justice and Sydenstricker. But, said Griffith for the picketers, "We also plan to begin dealing as directly as we can with

Buffalo (national headquarters for Empire). We don't feel the people in San Francisco are telling the people in Buffalo what's going on."

"They're over-reacting," said Griffith. "It's such a small thing we're asking for, and it's not anything new, just a return to what always was. But they're afraid if they give in, what will we ask for next?"

Ed.'s Note: The Bay Area Reporter is not involved with and takes no position on the dispute between Citizens For Medical Justice and Empire Savings & Loan.



Pickets outside Empire Savings & Loan on Castro St.
(Photo: Savage Photography)

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Mass Dis-Appeal

Proposed Papal Visit To S.F. Stirs Up Gay, Non-Gay Anger

by Charles Linebarger

Pope John Paul II's planned visit to San Francisco this September is causing disenchantment for people within and outside the gay community. A San Francisco Episcopalian priest referred to the pontiff as "immoral." Meanwhile, speculation is building that this will be the most difficult trip the pope may ever make.

"I am opposed to the pope's visit," said Fr. Robert Cromey, a priest at Trinity Episcopal Church. "He will divide an already tender relationship here between the gay and lesbian community and the straight community. He will make that division more intense and difficult. We will see a lot of people protesting."

Cromey, who is not gay, said the pope is "immoral." He added that the pope is "setting up a situation where gay bashing is

okay. His incredible stupidity in calling AIDS a gay disease is unbelievable. He's forgotten all about Africa. In addition, his position on abortion, birth control, the ordination of women to the priesthood, his pro-celibacy stance are all anti-sexual positions. He gives Christianity a bad name."

Bay Area Reporter has learned that a gay "nun" and her friends have registered with the city of San Francisco as

(Continued on page 17)



Gay BASHING, America's dirty little secret, is the subject of David Lamble's Sunday program on KQED Radio (88.5 FM). David's guest at 6:30 p.m. will be Diana Christensen of Community United Against Violence (CUAV). Christensen will play excerpts from the soundtrack of BASHING, CUAV's new film on anti-gay violence.

(Photo: Rink)

AIDS Claims Terry Dolan, Right Wing Fundraiser

Raised Millions to Defeat Liberals, Gay Rights; Widely Known as Gay But Publicly Denied Rumors

by George Mendenhall

John Terry Dolan, one of the nation's major conservative leaders, died Dec. 28 at his home in Washington, D.C. Dolan was a nationally known fundraiser and consultant for the far right. He formed the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) in 1975 with support from Ronald Reagan, Sens. Paul Laxalt and Jesse Helms, Joseph Coors, and Rev. Jerry Falwell.

NCPAC became the leading fundraising group for the right, raising \$7.5 million in 1979-1980 using the mailing lists of Richard Vigerie.

Dolan, 36, had been in ill health for six months. The exact cause of death remained a mystery. The Washington Post reported that "sources" said he had AIDS while his doctor said it was diabetes and pernicious anemia. One of Dolan's friends in San Francisco told Bay Area Reporter that Dolan died from one of the AIDS opportunistic diseases, tuberculosis.

Dolan began his political career at the age of nine—

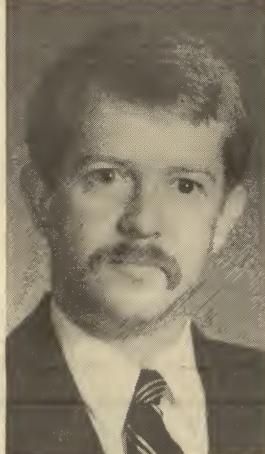
campaigning for Richard Nixon. An attorney and graduate of Georgetown University, he was widely known in political and gay social circles as a gay person. He spent much of his life trying to conceal that fact from the public. He expressed hostility toward gay rights publicly while privately attempting to help the movement.

The Dolan family has also had close ties to the White House. Terry's brother, Anthony, is the chief speech writer for Pres.

Ronald Reagan and his sister, Maiselle, is on the White House staff. Terry was among the top ten conservatives in the country with access to the president.

SHRILL TACTICS

Dolan was famous for developing media attacks on candidates that were the prototype of personalized campaigns seen in California last year. These techniques shocked incumbent Idaho Sen. Frank Church who was



Gay attorney Duke Armstrong, above, remembers NCPAC founder Terry Dolan.

removed from office after Dolan's attacks in 1980.

Dolan was open about what he was doing. He said "you have to make them angry and stir up hostilities. The shriller you are the more effective you are. We are trying to be divisive. A group like

ours could lie through its teeth, and the candidate it helps stays clean." The aim was to establish "constitutional libertarianism" which he said meant "government doing as little as possible."

Dolan, a "born again fundamentalist" Catholic, supported candidates who agreed with his viewpoint—opposition to abortion, labor, taxes and women's rights but support for a strong defense and prayer in schools. He worked closely with the religious and political right but divided with its leaders on sexual matters, claiming this was none of the government's business.

AGAINST GAY RIGHTS

The media had been careful not to identify Dolan as being gay in the past since he denied it in public. But many political activists knew him as gay.

Perry Young, a political analyst, wrote in his book *God's Bullies*, that Dolan was "the most widely discussed secret homosexual" in Washington, D.C. He added, "every gay activist in Washington and New York, every political reporter in the capital, knew what Dolan

(Continued on page 19)

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**Get the facts.
Then decide.**

Funding for this message provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

GAY LAW STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION et al.,
Plaintiffs, v.
PACIFIC BELL, et al.
Defendants.

No. 691-750
NOTICE OF PROPOSED
SETTLEMENT OF CLASS
ACTION

TO ALL PERSONS WHO
BELIEVE THAT PACIFIC
TELEPHONE AND
TELEGRAPH COMPANY OR
PACIFIC BELL HAS
DISCRIMINATED AGAINST
THEM IN EMPLOYMENT,
BASED ON SEXUAL
ORIENTATION:

A proposed settlement of a class action has been filed in the San Francisco Superior Court. The proposed settlement is on behalf of all persons who have been discriminated against in employment, based upon their homosexuality, by Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., or by Pacific Bell ("Pacific"), at any time during the period from January 1, 1970 to April 1, 1986. You are included in the class and in the proposed settlement, if you are a gay man or a lesbian, and you either (a) applied for employment with Pacific and were rejected due to your homosexuality during the above period, (b) were employed by Pacific at any time during that period and were terminated, denied promotion, or otherwise harassed or discriminated against due to your homosexuality during that period, or (c) intend to apply in the future for employment with Pacific, and fear that you will suffer discrimination due to your homosexuality, and you either (i) resided in California as of February 7, 1986, or (ii) resided elsewhere but your name was provided to Pacific by plaintiff's counsel. You are not included if you withdrew from participation in this action by sending a letter to the Clerk of the San Francisco Superior Court, on or before April 1, 1986.

THIS NOTICE IS DESIGNED TO INFORM YOU OF FACTS THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. IT IS NOT TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN EXPRESSION OF AN OPINION OF THE COURT AS TO THE MERITS OF ANY CLAIMS OR DEFENSES ASSERTED IN THE ACTION BY EITHER SIDE. THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM YOU OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AND THE OTHER MATTERS DESCRIBED SO THAT YOU CAN DECIDE WHAT STEPS, IF ANY, YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE.

This action is entitled *Gay Law Students Association, et al. versus Pacific Bell et al.*, San Francisco Superior Court No. 691-750. Plaintiffs contend that during the period January 1, 1970 through April 1, 1986, Pacific had a policy or practice of discrimination against gay and lesbian applicants for employment and against gay and lesbian employees. Pacific denies that it has engaged in the arbitrary employment discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

The proposed settlement includes prospective relief barring future employment discrimination by Pacific, based upon sexual orientation. The proposed settlement only covers damage claims which are based upon discrimination which occurred at any time between January 1, 1970 and April 1, 1986. Any damage claims which are based upon discrimination which occurred before or after this period are not resolved by the proposed settlement. Any individuals wishing to pursue such claims must do so individually.

THE PROPOSED
SETTLEMENT

The terms and conditions of the proposed settlement are only being summarized in this Notice. The Stipulation of Settlement itself should be consulted for further details with respect to the proposed settlement. A copy may be obtained or inspected at the office of the San Francisco Superior Court Clerk, City Hall, Room 317, 400 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

TERMS OF THE
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

A summary of the proposed settlement follows.

(a) Monetary Relief.

Under the proposed settlement, Pacific will establish a fund of \$3,000,000.00 (the "Class Claim Fund") with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as escrow holder, which shall be available to compensate those who have been damaged by discrimination by Pacific on the basis of sexual orientation in accordance with the arbitration procedures described below. PLEASE NOTE: YOU NEED NOT AND MAY NOT FILE ANY DAMAGES CLAIM AT THIS TIME. If and when the proposed settlement is approved, an additional notice will be published which sets forth the damage claim procedures and deadlines.

In summary, the proposed settlement provides that class members will need to file a detailed claim in writing within a certain time following approval of the settlement. Pacific may then file a written response to that claim, after which the claimant may file a written reply. An arbitrator will review each class member's claim for compensation. It is expected that the arbitrator will decide most claims on the basis of these written submissions, although the arbitrator may request informal interviews with claimants or employees of Pacific regarding some claims. The proposed settlement includes provisions intended to protect the confidentiality of claims. The

arbitrator will be the Honorable Robert L. Bostick, retired judge of the Alameda County Superior Court. There are provisions for a replacement arbitrator if he is unable to serve.

The arbitrator may compensate claimants for damages for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, including damages for emotional distress, but not including punitive damages. The arbitrator may not compensate claimants for losses that have already been compensated for by Pacific.

Although it is anticipated that most claims will not require an attorney's assistance, the proposed settlement provides that Pacific will pay the attorneys' fees and expenses of class members who receive money from the Class Claim Fund, up to certain limits agreed upon in the proposed settlement. These fees and expenses will not be taken from the Class Claim Fund.

Any amount of the Class Claim Fund which is not paid to claimants shall be distributed to nonprofit organizations dedicated to gay and/or lesbian health services, counseling, social services or the protection of individual legal rights, or organizations which provide public education concerning matters particularly affecting the gay and/or lesbian community.

(b) Nonmonetary Relief.

The proposed settlement provides that Pacific shall not discriminate in employment or in any term or condition of employment against any person on the basis of sexual orientation, and that it shall make such policy widely known. An internal complaint procedure will be available to handle complaints of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. It also provides that Pacific shall be enjoined from discrimination on the basis of sexual preference or sexual orientation.

(c) Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

After the negotiation and filing of the Stipulation of Settlement, and after the Court set a date for a hearing on the Stipulation of Settlement, plaintiffs' attorneys, on behalf of themselves and previous plaintiffs' attorneys, began to negotiate their legal fees and expenses with Pacific. Such fees and expenses, whether obtained through negotiated agreement or on application to the Court, will be paid by Pacific, and will not be taken from the Class Claim Fund. The issue of such fees and expenses will be considered by the Court immediately after the approval, if any, of this settlement.

HEARING ON THE
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

On March 5, 1987 at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will be held at the San Francisco Superior Court, Department 14, to determine whether the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate and thus should be approved by the Court. The hearing may be continued from time to time without further notice. If you object to the proposed settlement, and if you follow the procedure described below,

then you may appear at such hearing personally or through counsel of your own choosing. If you do not object or enter an appearance you will be represented by the above named plaintiffs and their counsel.

Any member of the class may object to the proposed settlement as not fair, reasonable, and adequate by submitting a written objection stating all grounds for his or her objections to the proposed settlement, together with any supporting papers. Class members also may appear at the hearing, in person or by counsel, but only if they submit written notice of intention to appear, together with written objections stating all grounds for their objection to the proposed settlement, and any supporting papers. All such submissions should be addressed to Charles N. Freiberg, Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe, 333 Bush Street, San Francisco, California 94104, referring on the back of the envelope to: **GLSA v. Pacific Bell**. No submissions will be considered by the Court, and no appearance at the settlement hearing will be allowed, unless the required submissions are postmarked on or prior to February 13, 1987. Those objections will be provided to the Court and to Pacific. Any responses to a class member's objections will be served on the objecting class member before the hearing. All timely objections will be considered by the Court.

If the proposed settlement is approved by the Court, class members will be bound by its terms, and will not be allowed to litigate elsewhere any claims that are resolved by the proposed settlement.

If the proposed settlement is not approved by the Court, then this action may proceed to trial. This would delay any relief to class members, increase legal fees and costs, and create uncertainty as to the eventual outcome of the lawsuit.

ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

Any questions you may have concerning the matters contained in this Notice, including questions on confidentiality, should be directed to the attorneys presently representing plaintiffs:

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333 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94104
Telephone: (415) 772-6000
Attn: Kevin James or Michael Dickstein
or:
National Gay Rights
Advocates
540 Castro Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
Telephone: (415) 863-3624
Attn: Leonard Graff

Dated: December 19, 1986
Lucy Kelly McCabe
Judge of the Superior Court

BAY AREA REPORTER OPEN FORUM

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Nero Still Fiddling

We pride ourselves on being a democracy, at least we constantly boast that we are. Yet, once again we have been reduced to such frustration with "politics as usual" that groups of people with or concerned about AIDS and ARC have taken to standing in a vigil at the doors of government to demand action on the worst health crisis of this century.

County officials have said they would rather wait, not spend the money now . . . This is fiddling while Rome burns.

A vigil is a political act but one outside the normal channels of democratic politics. It means that people have exhausted all regular means of petition to their government and, so, simply go to the centers of power and demand and wait. The presence of the vigil in Oakland before the Alameda County Administration Building represents a failure of the political system to respond to the reasonable expectations of its constituents.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors should pass the special supplemental appropriation of \$50,000 for needed AIDS services in that county. In fact, the supers should quit dodging the issue and

vote immediately to grant the full \$100,000 originally requested so that the Alameda County Health Department and the East Bay AIDS Project can better deal with the crisis now, before it gets worse—and more expensive.

County officials have said they would rather wait, not spend the money now, and someday get around to doing a comprehensive study on the area's needs and services. This is fiddling while Rome burns.

By all means, such a study should be done and done immediately. Alameda and Contra Costa Counties should devise a plan for treating the rising number of AIDS and ARC cases in the East Bay. They cannot continue to export the problem across the Bay Bridge to San Francisco.

A plan is needed and existing community service organizations are ready to form the basis for an education, support and treatment network.

An appropriation of \$100,000 is not a large sum of money in a budget the size of Alameda County's—currently \$718 million. The supervisors' refusal to deal with the issue is foolish. The longer you wait to act, the higher the cost in lives and dollars. You can't wish away the epidemic, supervisors.

No Survivors

In the film *All the President's Men*, a journalist is rebuffed by Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee with the line "Take it to the San Francisco Chronicle. They'll print anything." Apparently, that is no longer true. There are some things even the Chron can't bear to print.

Where does the Chron draw its line? Across our backs. Seems that gay people are as threatening to the status quo in death as much as when alive. In an act that is equally cruel and silly, Northern California's largest circulation daily newspaper refuses to identify gay lovers in obituaries. Blood relatives and so-called "legal" spouses are mentionable. But all others are reduced to "friend" or, worse, "roommate."

It doesn't matter how long two people have been together or how they valued their relationship. It doesn't matter what the couple has been through together or how they may have nourished and supported one another for one year or 25 years. And it doesn't matter that one man was at his mate's bedside through illness and dying. The sister who flies in from Dubuque for the weekend funeral will be installed as "survivor" of the deceased. There will be no others, decrees the almighty Chron.

It's the last insult, the final gesture of contempt and revenge from those who, in case we've forgotten, never fail to remind us of our place and put us in it.

The Chronicle's policy—de facto, if not formal—is cruel and degrading. It is also a ridiculous anachronism stemming from a fussy prudery.

One has to wonder what is really behind this hold out for the humiliation of a certain class of individuals. It can't be the Chronicle's reputation as a newspaper.

Maybe this is one more example of how the mainstream media in the U.S. manipulates the public's perception of events and the people involved. It's another example of the selective reporting of events that lands grandmothers with AIDS and their families on the front page as "innocent victims" while gay people are forever isolated and relegated to the back pages and always alone. Tragedies get attention but gay successes are carefully camouflaged. They don't want the family to find out.

In its callous obituary police, the Chronicle joins the Falwells of the world in insisting that gay people are not part of families, do not form relationships worth mentioning, and always die alone with "no survivors."

It's a special arrogance that fosters such tampering with our lives. It's a special kind of lowness that won't let even the dead rest in peace.

Ray O'Loughlin

OPINION

Pushing Paganism?

The New Year is barely upon us. Yet, it seems as if the old habits have hung on for another round. One of the casualties of the Reagan Era is the lack of tolerance for debate of important issues. You know the old line: this is how I think. Therefore, I am right, you are wrong and you're probably a communist to boot.

I received a personal letter from a chap named Bobby in Modesto. "It seems to be your opinion," he said, "that one cannot be both Christian and homosexual. Why are you continually pushing atheism and/or pagan religions?"

The letter doesn't surprise me. I don't doubt Bobby's devotion to his faith. I do think he should lift the blinders, though.

First off, I have never personally "pushed" atheism because I happen to believe in a Supreme Being. These days, I am not terribly sure it is a He, a She or a combination of Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, Yahweh, or even (God forbid) Charlton Heston. Call me hopelessly midwestern, but the Big Bang Theory just doesn't make any sense. Must be too many Cecil B. DeMille flicks when I was a kid.

My dismay with Bobby's letter stems more from the fact that I don't think he is understanding the nature of debate and the need for debate on important issues. If he would read us more thoroughly, he would note that we print angry retorts to that pagan, Brian Jones. We print big pictures and stories about midnight mass for Dignity at the Castro Theater. We put all the notices for meetings for Dignity, Integrity and MCC in the This Week calendar.

It's all there, Bobby. But have you stopped and thought about why we are critical of Organized Religion? Take for example, the Vatican say-

ing that maybe violence against gay men and lesbians is understandable because of the way we live our lives. Now, that's real Love-Thy-Neighbor, Judge-Not-Lest-You-Be-Judged stuff!

Shouldn't we criticize that, Bobby? Should we, or any other gay man or lesbian simply chant, "Thy will be done. Now which way to the ovens?"

Ask yourself if the philosophies of either the Vatican or the Protestant Fundamentalists are "Christ-like," according to what you read in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This question becomes abundantly clear when so-called Christian street toughs flog the fear of God into someone who is "different."

You might be that "different" person some day, Bobby. Hopefully, you won't be.

For all the gentleness of the Gospel, Jesus' response to hypocrisy was anger, flat-out anger. He could not stomach the Pharisees who were always quick to promote their piety.

There are Pharisees today we need to get good and angry with. These Pharisees go by various names like John Paul II or Jerry Falwell or Jimmy Swaggart. These are the Pharisees who tell you to love your neighbor, pray for your neighbor and prey on gay and lesbian people.

We need to debate these people and keep on debating them. We need to be angry with their intolerance, not subservient.

Nobody is asking you to give up your faith, Bobby. Just get real angry and start telling The Bible Bunch that they're not living up to their faith.

—Will Snyder

Controlling Erosion

★ We were upset by the article in the Dec. 18 issue of Bay Area Reporter, condemning the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department for its efforts in rehabilitating Buena Vista Park. The article's headline states that the "City Plans Fences To End Park Cruising." The purpose of the fences, as stated in the Buena Vista Park Master Plan is to control erosion. After studying the Master Plan's Erosion Control Plan Recommendations map, it is obvious that the four areas to be fenced are the four areas of the park that have very steep slopes and that are badly eroding. If these areas have also been selected by gay men for cruising, that is not the fault of the Rec and Parks Department.

The article criticizes the Master Plan because reforestation "may be years away," failing to note that this is a long-range plan (as stated in the introduction) that includes "a reforestation plan with a 20-year rotation schedule." The Rec and Parks Department has learned a lesson from both Golden Gate and Buena Vista Parks. The trees that were planted in both parks approximately 100 years ago are all reaching the end of their life span at the same time. As stated in the Master Plan, "Implementation of this plan will insure a healthy mixed age forest." Reforestation has begun already.

The article also states that "Members of the Buena Vista Park Neighborhood Association . . . dominated the year-long planning process on the park proposal." Three community workshops were held at which *all* members of the community were encouraged to present their views on the plan. The various users of the park are acknowledged in the Plan, which states that the selection of plan elements responded "in a balanced manner to the interests, concerns and priorities expressed by a diverse community."

Deborah Learner, the Park Planner who heads the team which developed the Master Plan, is a professional whose main concern is well stated in the Plan's introduction: "the preservation of the natural character of the park" and to "make the park attractive to a wide variety of users."

We feel that the Master Plan for Buena Vista Park is a good plan that will improve the park in the long run. If erosion in the park is not controlled, Buena Vista Park will probably become one of the largest sand dunes in San Francisco.

Peter S. Tannen
David C. Strachan
Gray Brechin
San Francisco

Intolerance, Jones-Style

★ Brian Jones' recent column "Puttin' on the Ritz" was the very thing so many of us deplore regarding the latest pronouncements on homosexuality from the Vatican: an intolerant, ignorant tract. It is one thing to criticize church policy, and something else to print a sophomoric broadside knocking the religious practices of others. Many among my family and my friends are Catholics, and though I am not a practicing Catholic, I feel as attacked by Mr. Jones' barrage of prejudices as I do by the Vatican's.

And what next? Will next edition's column expose the arcane religious practices of Methodists, or Sufis, or Jews, or Congregationalists? Intolerance, it's easy to see, is not exclusive to Catholicism, or for that matter, heterosexuals.

Richard Schwarzenberger
San Francisco

Bruce Kears Responds

★ I would like to respond to Peggy Mendelson's letter of Dec. 18, 1986, regarding my discrimination suit against Neiman-Marcus.

It is unfortunate that Ms. Mendelson feels she is qualified to rule there is "no justifiable battle between myself and Neiman-Marcus," and that my claims are misconceptions. I am confident that when my case comes before the appropriate body (In this case, the Court system) and all the evidence is presented, I shall prevail.

I also find it sad that Ms. Mendelson feels Neiman-Marcus qualified as a supportive leader in the fight against AIDS by holding fundraisers, while at the same time conveniently denying her very own employees with AIDS the basic right to work. This lip service indeed presents a good public image, and therefore is good for business. Never mind dealing with the personal problems of the individual employee who will not have a job for the rest of his life. All that is required on this level is to state to the press "we care." The extent to which they cared will be presented at the hearings.

The most offensive element of Ms. Mendelson's remarks, however, lies in her attempt to characterize Neiman-Marcus policy as sensitive and supportive of people with AIDS. If she and her colleagues would take the time to research the issue with the AIDS Foundation "AIDS in the workplace" program, she would discover that Neiman-Marcus corporate policy

falls far short of the manner in which terminally ill employees are treated by other large San Francisco corporations such as Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Levi Strauss. These corporations, unlike Neiman-Marcus, allow their sick employees flexible work hours, reasonable leave without pay and other workable accommodations which Neiman-Marcus has rejected out of hand.

Finally, it is appalling to me that members of the gay community have come to the defense of Neiman-Marcus without first asking me or my attorney about the circumstances surrounding my termination from Neiman-Marcus. At times like these, it is a profound disappointment to see members of my community line up so easily on the side of corporate America. If you feel as I do, then I ask you to boycott Neiman-Marcus until such time as they agree to revise their discriminatory practices.

Bruce Kears
San Francisco

Why Is KQED Alive?

★ I may be wrong, since I do not seem to be able to obtain a copy of it from City Hall, but I thought we, in San Francisco, had a nondiscrimination law that said (unquote) that any business doing business in San Francisco who discriminated (against homosexuals) could not do business in the city.

There are others, I am sure, but KQED is obvious at this point.

My question is: If this law is as I believe it is, why is KQED still doing business in San Francisco?

Vernon Link
San Francisco

Neiman-Marcus: The Other Side

★ I feel compelled to write to you regarding the recent unfavorable publicity concerning Neiman-Marcus. It is neither my intention nor my place to comment on the specifics of the case creating the negative publicity. That issue will be up to others to settle. I can, however, share my personal experiences and feelings concerning the organization and its management.

Twice over the last twelve months Neiman-Marcus has extended a hand of friendship and support to the AIDS Emergency Fund, of which I am President. We did not seek that support; Neiman's sought us out. Their assistance was particularly meaningful to me as they were among the first, if not the first retail organization to make a significant contribution to the AIDS crisis. They gave of their time, talent, and very importantly, their financial resources.

Peggy Mendelson, Vice President and Manager, consistently demonstrated a sensitive and genuine concern for the many facets of AIDS and its effect on individuals. In addition, her staff from Public Relations to the Department Managers were always eager to help and give generously of themselves.

I appreciate the opportunity to present another viewpoint of Neiman-Marcus. It is my hope that by doing so, your readers will be able to form a balanced viewpoint of the organization and its management.

George Burgess
San Francisco

**Let Me Make Up
My Own Mind**

★ The latest Empire of America "controversy" seems a little silly to me. People seem determined to avenge the loss of Atlas simply by striking out against any policy the bank's newest management decides upon.

Last Monday, I tried to enter the bank lobby to cash a check and was confronted by one of the strikers who shouted at me, "Take your money out of this bank; you're being exploited!" I do not deny their right to gather there and let their feelings be known. What I do resent is being told what is best for me to do with my own life, whether it is coming from another gay man telling me where I should bank or from straight society telling me who to love. I believe I am adult enough to make those decisions for myself.

There is so much injustice in the world. Perhaps Citizens For Medical Justice should concentrate its time and energy on problems more important to us than the fact that a bank that was once a symbol of the gay community won't hand out a pamphlet that is available a few more doors down the street.

John Kessinger
San Francisco

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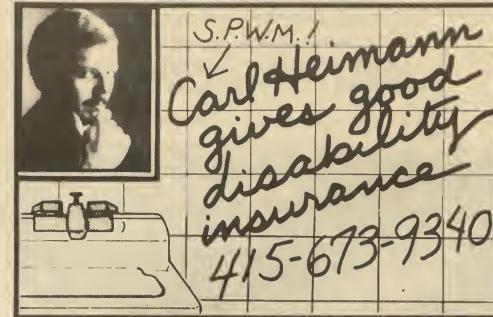
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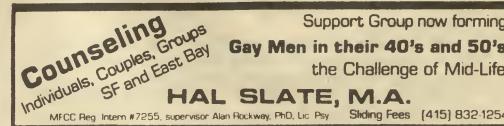
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OBITUARIES

IOC Must Apologize

★ The following text was sent to Mayor Feinstein and the Supervisors of San Francisco:

In light of the International Olympic Committee's continuing efforts to deny the use of the word Olympic to an athletic organization which represents a major portion of the San Francisco population, it seems ludicrous that any city official would even entertain the thought of permitting the 1996 Olympics to be held in San Francisco.

Only after the IOC has tendered a public apology and made appropriate restitution to the gay athletic organization which it has so cruelly maligned over the past five years should our representatives at City Hall consider the possibility of our fair city hosting this financially risky endeavor.

Jerry R. De Young
San Francisco

Full Of Himself

★ I'm not only a little upset, but taken aback by Brian Jones' lack of interest concerning the "Church of Rome."

I must first say how very impressed I am by his not-so-delicate display of head knowledge. However, should I need definition on the present "Church of Rome," I won't be calling him.

I believe it's within proper course to quote Martin Buber: "In him who is full of himself there is no room for God."

I'm for the United Way slogan: "We don't know you but we love you."

Oh yes, a note about your quote: "They don't know any better. One hopes we do," let me add: "If Messiah should come today," a zaddik said, "and say, 'You are better than the others,' then I would say to him, 'You are not Messiah.'"

After all, it is written: "You must love your neighbor as yourself."

Craig A. Wooten
San Francisco

It's A Shame

★ Re: 1-1-87 letter from The Rev. Jerry Brown, Episcopal Church, after a very good, sound and practical letter of suggestion, it's a shame that he tripped over his last sentence, which should have read,

Who would come out best: the man in the white dress, or the men — and women — in blue jeans?

Our best effort will be our joint effort.

Bud Castleman
Oakland

Inconceivable!

★ It is understandable that a celibate group of Roman men in floor-length skirts apply theologic supremacy to biologic fears. It is plausible that they find homosexuality functionless and/or suicidal, when their concept of heterosexuality outside of marriage is basically confessional. It is even curious that the Roman Catholic Church bans birth control to a world with geometric progressions of population, poverty and misery. But for the Vatican to forbid Catholic homosexuals from using birth control, i.e., the employment of condoms to ward off AIDS, well, that is just inconceivable to me.

D. Patrick Driscoll
Mira Loma, CA

Chronicle Obituaries

★ This letter was sent to William German, Executive Editor, San Francisco Chronicle, 5th & Mission Streets, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Re: Estate of James Walter Graves; San Francisco Chronicle Policy on Obituaries

Dear Mr. German:

I am writing to protest the San Francisco Chronicle's recently announced policy of not listing anyone but blood relatives as "survivors" in the newspaper's obituary columns. This policy is unfair to the diverse populace of San Francisco and an embarrassment for any major city newspaper. It should be changed forthwith.

This law firm recently experienced firsthand the grief this policy can cause. We represent the estate of James Walter Graves. Mr. Graves was the president of Fitzgerald, Graves & Company, a nationally recognized, fundraising organization. He was the subject of an obituary written by reporter Evelyn White which was published in the Chronicle on Dec. 16.

During the afternoon of Dec. 15, I was notified that the Chronicle would not mention Mr. Graves' companion and lover of many years, Mark Selfridge, in the obituary. At about 3:30 p.m. on that date, I spoke

with editor Ed Epstein, who told me that his deadline was only ten minutes away and that the Chronicle would not include this information in the story. He expressed some rather vague concerns about "lawsuits" which might occur if the Chronicle changed its policy.

The Chronicle's stated policy is unfair to the many San Francisco residents who live in close relationships other than marriage. This includes heterosexual and gay partners, elderly companions, communal living arrangements, certain religious lifestyles, and many others. The Chronicle's unilateral decision that blood relatives are the only persons who count as survivors of a deceased, even when irrefutable evidence indicates otherwise, causes unnecessary additional grief to persons who lose their loved-ones without serving any worthwhile public policy or journalistic goal.

The Chronicle's policy is also without any legal basis. Mr. Epstein's fears of "lawsuits" on this issue are contrary to established precedents. If the Chronicle is worried about libel, you should note that a defendant cannot be libeled under California law. *Kelly v. Johnson Publishing Co.* (1958) 160 Cal. App. 2d 718, 723 [325 P.2d 659]. As for libel actions by other persons, we note that truth is an absolute defense and that the principles of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan* (1964) 376 U.S. 254 [84 S. Ct. 710, 11 L. Ed. 2d 686] prohibit liability even for false statements absent actual malice.

In light of these facts, I hope that the Chronicle will reconsider its present policy regarding the listing of survivors in obituary columns and print the names of all surviving loved-ones, whether or not blood relatives, in all future cases.

Sincerely

Jerry E. Berg
Attorney At Law
San Francisco

Distinction Wasn't Clear

★ I sincerely want to thank the Bay Area Reporter and John Karr for the wonderful story about my "Faces of AIDS" exhibit soon to appear (April) in San Mateo County. Unfortunately, I made an error in my interview with John Karr. In the group of four photographs you published, the one in the upper left hand corner is a picture of a person with ARC. Although I am including both AIDS and ARC people in the exhibit, I do regret the fact that I did not make the distinction clear to John. I am profoundly sorry if my mistake caused anybody harm.

Jim Wigler
San Francisco

Restore Access, Faith

★ This letter was sent to Jeff Reinhardt, Marketing Director, Empire Savings & Loan Association, 21945 Erwin St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

Dear Mr. Reinhardt:

This morning I joined several community activists in picketing the 444 Castro Street branch of Empire Savings in San Francisco. The picket will continue until the Empire headquarters in Los Angeles allows community access to the branch lobbies in the city. It has been a long-standing tradition that Empire, once known as Atlas, served as a distribution point for information important to the Castro neighborhood it serves. Unfortunately, policy-makers outside our neighborhood and city reneged on that tradition recently, a decision I view as indicative of further changes to come that will forever change this financial institution's previous sensitivity to the gay and lesbian depositors who once proudly placed money in this particular savings and loan.

You should know that on two occasions recently, once on Dec. 22 and again this morning (Dec. 29), the picketers spoke with Mark Fulham, branch manager, hoping to reach an acceptable agreement to avoid the call for a boycott. It was very disconcerting to learn this morning from Mr. Fulham that he had not even notified Los Angeles of our plans to picket the branch he manages. Apparently our first meeting had not been taken seriously, which may point to the real problem as I see it: the new ownership is simply not sensitive to the fact that our community considers this financial institution a symbol of gay pride. Empire has purchased much more than just another savings and loan and decisions affecting our neighborhood must reflect this sentiment.

The support we received this morning was astounding — at least 20 to 1 believed the call for a boycott was proper. Nevertheless, none of us want to continue the picket for we would much rather see Empire serve our community, and serve it proudly. Our demand is simple: continue the tradition of making Empire a unique example of gay pride. Restore community access and restore our faith in Empire.

Keith Griffith
San Francisco

Chronicle Obituaries

★ Your icy statement of policy to the grieving friends of Jay Spears, whose recent obituary in the Chronicle failed to acknowledge his lover and companion David Linger, was no reply at all to their request for the truth.

Your decision to ignore the surviving lover of a homosexual relationship is a rejection of the truth, the life, and the God-given human emotion of the deceased. Why print the obituary if the most essential commitment and direction of the life of the deceased is to be nullified and consequently erased through your shortsighted and high-handed policy.

A newspaper clipping of an obituary can often be the most lasting record of one's achievements, even of one's very existence. For you to falsify this record at the request of anyone, even a relative, is a grave disservice to the deceased, and a grievous injury to the survivors and loved ones of the departed.

Your policy is a grand-slam insult to every person affected by the loss of a loved one. Do you also omit the names of black survivors of interracial couples if the white family objects to the relationship?

In San Francisco in 1986, when death has become an extraordinarily relentless and painful part of our daily existence, immersed as we are in this epidemic of AIDS, your stated obituary policy deserves to be reconsidered and restructured to the needs and social proprieties of the citizens directly affected, whom you claim to be the voice of.

Perhaps a meeting with some clergy and lay people who minister to those affected by deaths from AIDS would help you in formulating a more compassionate and humanistic approach to this sensitive subject. Your present policy adds indelible scars of insult to the already unbearable pain of loss of a loved one from AIDS.

Thomas Drury
San Francisco

No To The USOC

★ This letter was sent to The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Mayor, City and County of San Francisco

Madam Mayor:

Enclosed, please find a photocopy of a letter I have submitted to the San Francisco Chronicle. I ask you to consider its point carefully, and to remember Tom Waddell in your reply to the USOC.

Dr. Waddell is a hero to a large segment of the city you represent. His persecution at the hands of an organization ostensibly intended to encourage excellence, equality and fair play is inappropriate at the very least. I submit to you that the welcoming of that same organization to San Francisco would be unacceptable at the present time. The USOC should be well above the petty persecution of any minority group. That they so obviously are not makes them—and the event they claim to represent—a travesty and objectionable potential guests.

Unless they reverse their legal position and relieve Tom Waddell of his hundred-thousand-dollar burden, I must ask you to say a resounding NO TO THE USOC.

John Dibelka
San Francisco

More Sissies, Please!

★ No article derived from an interview can be completely representative of a person's opinions, but I am not sure Martin Stow has covered the most serious faults of the "sissy study."

He's right, the characters used to label a "sissy" are entirely too narrow, and their use to force an oversimplified, polarized choice explains how kids are made into homosexuals right there.

But look again at these characters. They are not simply arbitrary (lacking rational or convincing justification). They betray a *particular* bias, a program. The research designers did not equate female with wearing pointed shoes, hair below the ear, or plump at the chest (though these would have a rational basis). They chose traits patently linked to women's roles as the powerless. A surface objectivity cannot neutralize the contempt that these scientists act upon.

Only morons believe maleness can be determined by athletic skill or interest. And of course only experienced lesbians stand any chance of qualifying for the Olympics! Thorough ignorance of activities in the kitchen are a fine preparation for adult male life, and any acquaintance with mathematics past long division causes women's voices to deepen and chest hair to grow. What rot!

People who "think" on these lines tend to be deluded or ignorant about biological realities as well. They often claim that all nesting behavior among birds is confined to the female, that animal polygyny is common while polyandry or promiscuity is rare, that territoriality and combat are confined to males... not one of which is true!

In college I was told by a Ph.D. anthropologist categorically that there were no human societies known of matriarchal or matrilineal kin groupings.

I walked right out the door, and did not return. Even if I'd never read a book in my life, I knew better than that. I came from a matriarchal clan myself.

As these researchers use "sissy" they mean socially incompetent, contaminated by survival-useless traits of women, even (shudder!) given to quiet, peaceful or cooperative play instead of healthy male noise, manipulation, violence, dirt (or better, grease) and noxious chemical solvents and pollutants.

You really don't even need that complete a definition before reaching a firm conclusion: If there is any significance at all to this sex-role definition, then for human survival and social harmony we must waste no time. The sooner *all* boy children are sissies, the better! That will permit us to concentrate on which feminine traits most deserve encouragement and imitation.

Paul K. S. Hartley
San Francisco

Thanks, B.A.R.

★ I would like publicly to thank B.A.R. and its reviewer Frank Howell for the sympathetic and favorable review of my book *San Francisco Stages: A Concise History, 1849-1986* which appeared in your Christmas week issue.

San Francisco Stages is the first book of its kind ever to be published, and the only book even remotely like it was published over 35 years ago. It has been ordered by many libraries and is selling very well in the stores.

Considering the number of theatre-goers we have in San Francisco and the interest a book such as this might have for them, one would think that the major press (i.e., The Chronicle and Examiner) would have paid the publication of *San Francisco Stages* some attention. So far, however, that hasn't happened.

The book details the history and development of all theatre in San Francisco, and is not concerned just with gay theatre. It is therefore especially praiseworthy of B.A.R., a newspaper catering for the most part to the gay community, to run a review of it.

Dean Goodman
San Francisco

Thanks From Rita

★ I would like to take a minute to thank each and every one of you that has supported me throughout this past year. Your continued support through time and donations has meant a great deal to me, the patients, staff and families of Ward 5A.

My Fifth Annual Christmas Party was a great success thanks to all of you.

My special thanks to my partner and chef (Terry Scott) for his endless recipes, also I would like to thank my pastry chef (Johnny Marchant) and my waiters (Terry, Tony, Paul and Richard Locke) for always being ready and available, the man of endless energy (Patrick Toner), our girlfriend (Sharon McNight), MBB Productions, West Graphics, B.A.R., the wonderful staff of 5A and D.J. (Odis Campbell). The list is endless.

Our community is a very special one — one that I am constantly proud to be part of.

I am based at San Francisco General 5A, but please let us not forget our troops at the 10 or more other hospitals this season and this year. They all need us!

I love you all very much. Thanks for believing in me.

If you ever need me just call.

Rita Rockett
Rita Rockett Productions
San Francisco

Thank You, Women

★ I think it is time someone said "thanks" to the women of this community. I work as a cashier fairy at the Community Thrift Store and not a week goes by without at least one or two donations from women towards the AIDS fight.

My next door neighbor is a volunteer as a counselor with AIDS patients and he is always full of stories of the help the women are giving in this time of need. I just like to think were the situation reversed that the men of the community would be as supportive as the women have been. For years, I have felt that the men and women of the gay world in San Francisco needed to work more together. It is too bad that it has taken something so serious to bring us together. Thank you, women.

F. Vic Galvan
San Francisco

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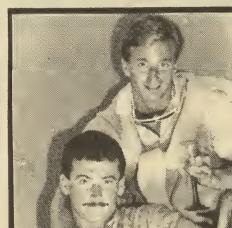
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Wayne T. Brady

Pres. Nancy Walker Reorganizes Board of Sups.

Nancy Walker, a member of the Board of Supervisors since 1979, becomes the new president of the 11-member legislative body today (Jan. 8) when she succeeds outgoing President John Molinari. Walker was first elected to represent district 9 when supervisors were elected by district. She represented the Bernal Heights, Glen Park, Oceanview, Miraloma Park, and Ingleside areas.

Walker was re-elected city-wide in 1980, 1982, and again this past November when she finished as the highest vote-getter among supervisorial candidates. Walker serves as a full-time supervisor and holds no other paid position. Walker has worked to open up the doors of city government and has been an outspoken advocate for working people and poor people in the city. Having shown a great concern about the quality of life for those who live and work in San Francisco, Walker says that the issues most important to her are housing, criminal justice, jobs, women's issues, transportation, health services, small business and community services.

The new board president has a long history of political activism in the city. She has long been involved in her neighborhood. Walker is a leader in the district elections campaign and has served as president of the Bernal Heights Association. She has been a member of the West Bay Health Systems Agency and the San Francisco Sub-Area Council, and was a co-founder of the Family Violence Program.

Currently, Sup. Walker serves as a member of the Golden Gate Bridge Board, the Committee for Water Policy Consensus, and on the National SANE Board.

During her years on the board, the new president has built an impressive record of accomplishments such as:

- San Francisco's landmark law requiring developers to allocate space or funds for childcare facilities.

- Proposition H to eliminate pay inequity among city workers based on race or sex.

- The requirement that fast food chains disclose nutritional information about the food they serve.

- The city's hazardous materials ordinance, one of the toughest in the country.

- Sponsored the law by which renters receive interest on their security deposits.

- Establishment of the Health Commission, increasing government attention and citizen involvement in public health issues.

- The city's strict regulations against sexual harassment in the workplace.

- Improved health services for seniors.

Board Pres. Walker has proposed a comprehensive remaking of the board's committee structure, and will announce new committee assignments after the expected adoption of the committee reform package to take place on Jan. 13. New assignments are expected to take place by Mar. 1, and until that time, outgoing Pres. John Molinari will assume Walker's current committee responsibilities and Walker will take on the president's traditional role as chairperson of the Rules Committee.



Sup. Nancy Walker

tor appears to have a lot of folks agreeing with him.

The L.A. Times dug out court records last week that show pianist Liberace has settled an out-of-court beef with his former live-in "chauffeur and travel secretary" (say what?) for a paltry \$75,000. The settlement also rescinds an earlier settlement agreement in which the former secretary obtained \$75,000, a 1960 Rolls-Royce and two dogs (not bad for a "chauffeur", Lee.)

Famed author James Baldwin (*Another Country, Giovanni's Room, The Fire Next Time*, and others) has returned once more to America from his French exile and is busy doing college lectures. His new book *The Evidence of Things Not Seen* is fast becoming a best-seller.

Quote of the week from the Jan. 2 edition of the Los Angeles Times (on the Labor Department's decision to impose testing for the AIDS virus on the Jobs Corp—including applicants, employees and the 40,000 students enrolled in agency training programs): "The AIDS epidemic will not be thwarted by mandatory testing programs. Preliminary evidence suggests that not all, perhaps not even most, people with the virus will develop AIDS. Nevertheless, testing almost certainly will lead to injustices, including job discrimination. The real need is to invest more in research and in educating the public, not in diverting resources to exercises that have limited, if any, meaning."

Lesbian Drop-In Group

The OPTIONS Lesbians Over Forty Drop-in rap group will continue in the New Year. Wednesday evenings will find us sharing concerns, meeting new friends and building networks.

We meet for an hour and a half, then those who wish will go out for a bite to eat. A donation of \$2 for OPTIONS members

and \$3 for non-members will be asked. All monies go to support OPTIONS. If you (or a woman you know) might enjoy this group—join us! For information call, 431-6405.

OPTIONS is a non-profit agency. The Lesbian Rap Group is an ongoing weekly group. •

Pulling Their Puds

The manila envelope which John Karr left by my door looked innocuous enough, but inside what wonders it contained! As I flipped through the pages of *The Penis Mightier*, an anthology of articles, pictures, poems, and letters compiled for the third anniversary of the S.F. Jacks, I found even my jaded sexual sensibilities challenged. For here was an extraordinary document, an unabashed celebration of the joys of mutual masturbation, presented as graphically as any I have ever seen. A paean to the power of the penis, it was definitely not for the timid or faint of heart.

Karr left the magazine so that I might gain a better understanding of the club for which it was created. Simply put, the S.F. Jacks is a jerk-off club, perhaps San Francisco's premier jerk-off club. According to Karr, a charter member, the organization was founded in March 1983 by the visionary Ron Bluestein (aka, Ronnette) as a result of his trip to New York earlier that year to visit the N.Y. Jacks.

Impressed by what he saw, Bluestein had Karr place an ad in the B.A.R., did extensive networking on his own, and secured the use of a building South of Market. The result was an "incredibly intense" meeting of over 100 "like-minded" individuals who couldn't get enough of a good thing — their own or someone else's.

Although established at the beginning of the AIDS crisis, "we were never started as a safe sex group or a group with any particular amount of AIDS awareness," claims Karr. "We were just a group of people who liked to jack off."

Recalling that the late '70s and early '80s were the heyday of notorious sex clubs like the Caldron and the Boot Camp, Karr continues that the S.F. Jacks were established as an alternative to the impersonal, sometimes heartless, sexual rituals then in vogue.

"The bars and sex clubs then were painted black and divided into fragmented spaces with dim lighting," notes Karr. "That encouraged cruising, coupling in twosomes — what we call 1970s behavior. There was little emotional or psychological support at those clubs. While we weren't necessarily opposed to them and didn't consider ourselves higher or mightier, we still felt there was a healthier sexual way."

(Continued on next page)

To provide that emotional support and to encourage group interaction, the S.F. Jacks established a set of rules governing membership behavior. These included (and still include) the following: "Checking of all clothes except shoes is mandatory. The use of poppers is prohibited. Jack-off only, but exhibitionism, creativity, whim, and non-rule breaking kink during sexplay is encouraged."

Another rule, according to Karr, is that lights be kept on so people can see one another. The music, also, is strictly regulated so that it is "psychologically warm and reassuring."

Explained Ron Bluestein in an article for the Advocate, "There is no darkness, because there is nothing to hide, no hard liquor because there is no reason to be lost or befuddled."

One consequence of these rules, says Karr, is that old distinctions such as age, race, and beauty lose their importance. (One, however — sex — still matters a great deal. You won't see too many women at a Jacks meeting.)

Another result is that as sexual needs are fulfilled, personal relationships grow. "After the initial orgasm," explains Karr, "social hour begins" — until the ever-restless Jacks respond anew to the demands of their dicks. At a Jacks meeting, there is obviously more than one way to "meat" the members.

Because environment is so important to the Jacks, they have spent a long time finding exactly the right space to meet their needs. It has been a long and arduous journey. From Natoma Street they moved to the Caldron, "which was like stepping into the dragon's mouth for us," says Karr. Later the Jacks met at the 1808 Club, the M & M Club, and for six months at the Academy.

Finally, in late 1986, the Jacks moved into a warehouse at 890 Folsom, which member Buzz Bense leased on a long-term basis. Able at last to create their own environment exactly as they pleased, the Jacks held a grand opening party on Nov. 17 and continue to hold benefits to raise remodeling funds. Revitalized by their new surroundings, the Jacks are currently seeking new members to join the organization.

While individual members come and go and group dynamics change over the years (some charter members



Party With Christian

Christian Haren, center, poses with Hank Cook, left, and George Burgess, right, the incoming and outgoing presidents of the AIDS Emergency Fund at his party for New Friends, an organization created for the education of newly-diagnosed PWAs. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

New Years Resolutions:

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- ② Quit smoking...
- ③ Become active in community
- ④ Stop feeling guilty
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The "R" Word

by Frank Davis,
18th Street Services

Oh, no! It's that time of year again. With the holidays behind us and a new year in front of us, we're supposed to make "Resolutions." I have always hated that, because I know I should make them, but even if I do, I probably won't keep them.

Nevertheless, because it is the new year, and because this is a column on health (and more particularly on drug and alcohol abuse), I couldn't resist talking about the "R" word because I know many of us may have overdone the drugs and alcohol during the holidays and are now resolving "never again."

The Christmas and New Year holidays are traditionally a time for parties, drinking and drugging. For many people, they also are a time for depression, and that may lead to an increase in drug or alcohol use. It is very common for many in both the gay and straight communities to lose control of our alcohol or drug use at this time of year, and then resolve to clean up our act after Jan. 1.

Well, folks, it's after Jan. 1.

If you are one of those people who has made a resolution to stop or control your drinking or drugging in 1987, but fear that it will meet with the same fate as other resolutions in the past (such as working out regularly at the gym, losing weight, saving money, etc.), then read on. If you really want to help yourself, you can. But it takes more than just a simple resolution. It takes a commitment. And it takes help.

About one in three gays and lesbians has a drug or alcohol problem, but only a very small percentage solve that problem for a significant period of time. We may "cut down" or even stop our use of chemicals for a while, but often after a week or a month, we're right back where we started, or even worse. The problem is that alcoholism and drug addiction are *diseases*, and diseases are not successfully treated by resolutions.

If you had a serious illness such as cancer, would you merely "resolve" to get better? Of course not. You'd get to the nearest doctor ASAP. But alcoholism and drug addiction kill thousands of people every year through accidents they cause, ill-

nesses they promote, overdoses and suicides. Yet most people who suffer from these diseases never seek help.

If you have a problem with drugs or alcohol that is causing enough havoc in your life that you are having to make a resolution about it, then you are an alcoholic or addict, and you have a disease. It's as simple as that. It may sound harsh to you, but it's true.

Furthermore, it will not cure itself, any more than cancer will. And you can't cure it by merely resolving to cut down or control your use of alcohol or drugs. That will not work. You are doomed to fail in that kind of resolution, so why don't you just save yourself the time, energy and guilt — and don't bother. Make a resolution about losing weight instead.

In the other hand, if you have really, really decided that your problem is out of control and that this time you are going to change your life, then here is how.

1. Make a resolution to call a substance abuse counseling agency. There are several gay programs in San Francisco, and they are affordable (even free). Lesbians can call the Iris Project, 864-2364. Gay men can call 18th Street Services, 861-4898, or Operation Recovery, 626-7000. Make an appointment to see a

professional counselor, and then follow through with his or her recommendation for counseling or treatment.

2.) Make a resolution to join Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA). There are many gay meetings in the city every day, and they are all free. Call 18th Street Services for a free listing of the times and places. But if you want this to work, you can't just sit in on a meeting or two and expect to magically have your problem disappear. You must *participate*. Go to a lot of meetings, meet people there, make friends and really get into the programs. It will work if you want it to and are willing to seriously work the AA or NA program.

If you have a serious drug or alcohol problem and are committed this year to really carry through on the "R word," then don't just make a resolution to stop or cut down. Make a commitment to yourself to carry through on one or both of the above two resolutions.

If you are not willing to do that, then skip the resolutions on your drug or alcohol problem this year and make a resolution to faithfully go to the gym and lose weight in 1987 instead. •

Hippler

(Continued from previous page)

are concerned by "conservative" trend in behavior in recent months, for instance), the group has never lost sight of its original purpose — to enjoy. According to Bluestein in *The Penis Mightier*, "To have fun at a Jacks party — I mean really have fun — you have to be able not to care about other people's judgments. You come to the Jacks because the very idea of being stripped down to the bottom line turns you on."

"Turns you on" is the key phrase here. Some members are so excited by the group activities that they describe their involvement in actual spiritual terms. According to one, "Being in a wave of energy with 75 Jacks is a religious communion flying on sex to come towards joy and glory."

According to another, "Several times, in the twilight before the chain reaction orgasm, I have thought that I was in heaven."

And according to a third, "When his handsome face went into orgasm, I felt close to Godhead. Ah!"

A bit much? Perhaps for me. But if it interests you, the Jacks meet every Monday (except the first Monday of the month) at 890 Folsom. Doors open at 7:30 and close at 8:30, and membership is open to all. (Suggested donation: \$6.)

Or you can join one of the Jacks' splinter groups — the K'tharsiss, a street theater troupe which focuses on the fear, anger, and denial concerning AIDS, or the J.O. Buddies, a club which encourages fantasy clothing rather than nudity.

Before you go, however, bear in mind this warning from Karr: "I've been pulling my cock each Monday night for three years and it hasn't gotten any longer at all! I want my money back!"

It's a cruel world, honey. •

All Aboard the Phoebe Snow!

Within the Greater Bay Area, there are a number of gay railfans, some belonging to Phoebe Snow Society, and many who do not. A few years ago, one informal get-together was held and that seemed to be the end of it. Still, many of us questioned the lack of a more frequent get-together. Now, a number of us have agreed to have a shot at six railfan meetings during 1987, one every other month starting in January.

A very special program has been put together for our first meeting on Friday, Jan. 9, at 8 p.m.

This program will be held in the Tom Sawyer Room of the Mark Twain Hotel, 345 Taylor Street (near Ellis Street). Admission is \$5 and there will be an informal gathering for those who want, starting at 7:30.

To add to the pleasure and completeness of the evening, join with other railfans for dinner at PASTERIA — entrance from the Mark Twain lobby. A full selection of meals are available (order from the menu) with prices ranging from \$4.50 up. So that the restaurant can plan accordingly, they do ask for advance reservations. We'll gather at the restaurant and start ordering about 6:15 p.m.

For dinner reservations and/or further information, please contact: Warren L. Smith, #116, 424 Callan Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577 (415) 352-0301 (6-11 p.m. please). •

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Gay in the East Bloc

LOS ANGELES — So, you want to take a vacation to Eastern Europe, eh Bunk? Well, journalist Peter Cummings has some tips for you. Czechoslovakia isn't too bad. Ditto for East Germany. But Poland isn't a comfortable place and Rumania may be the worst place of all. Yugoslavia, Cummings says, is the best bet.

Cummings released his findings in a recent issue of *The Advocate*. He had information about Eastern bloc nations in the Soviet sphere of influence except for Russia and Bulgaria.

Czechoslovakia seemed to be the most interesting of all the Communist countries. Cummings interviewed Jan and Richard Lany, two cousins who happen to be gay and live in Prague. Jan and Richard operate a gay phone counseling service and say the Czechs have legalised homosexuality for 20 years.

In fact, according to Cummings, the Czechs have a pretty offbeat sense of humor about the whole subject of sex. In one joke, to cite an example, a man walks into a restaurant and says, "Do you have anything warm?" The waiter replies, "Yes, the cook!" (Explanation: the word "warm," in Czech, also means gay.)

Lutheran churches in East Germany sponsor 11 different gay groups. Government authorities seem to leave East German gay groups alone. When East Berlin was the site of a "peace fair," a gay group was on the scene with one of the most popular booths.

The same cannot be said further east in Poland. Ironically, it is not the government which makes life miserable for Polish gays. The government has urged equality for gays. It is, instead, the Catholic Church which has fostered hatred for gay men and lesbians. Considering the fact that the church is just as powerful now as it was before the Russians took over Poland at the end of World War II, gays are likely to remain in a weird position in Poland where the government is actually more supportive of them than a church group.

Rumania is a totally different story, according to Cummings. One Bucharest gay named Ion was asked to spy on other gay men. When he refused to do so, some thugs from the government beat him up so brutally he could not work for a week.

"My current life consists of my work and sitting home alone in front of the TV," said Ion. "But I still do not feel secure. I keep waiting for a knock on the door. I am sure the police have not forgotten me."

Cummings said the most liberal country of all in Eastern Europe is Yugoslavia, not under the influence of the Soviet Union. The Yugoslavian government scrapped all anti-gay laws a decade ago. A gigantic gay film festival was held last June. •

—*The Advocate*

Florida Station Bans PWA From Talk Show

MIAMI BEACH — A Florida radio station manager vetoed a request from a talk show host to include a person with AIDS from a talk show. Lee Fowler, operations manager for WNWS News Talk Radio, disallowed talk show host Steve Kane from including

a PWA from the station's studios.

"I was told that if I wanted to do the show I would have to go out of the studio and tape the interviews at a hospice, and bring the tapes back to be aired," said Kane. "The issue is that it is not casually transmittable. How can we state this unless we have a PWA in the studio to tell how safe it is?"

However, Fowler's boss, Dennis Collins, didn't agree with Kane. Collins, who is WNWS' general manager, said that "when we prove, hopefully beyond the shadow of a doubt, that you cannot contract AIDS casually, then I want people to feel free to come here."

This statement comes in the light of Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's guidelines for avoiding transmissions of AIDS which stated: "You cannot get AIDS from casual social contact. Casual social contact such as shaking hands, hugging, social kissing, crying, coughing or sneezing will not transmit the AIDS virus. You cannot get AIDS from body massages, masturbation or any non-sexual body contact."

—*The Weekly News of Miami*

Gay Vets Vow No More Embarrassments

NEW YORK — The Gay Veterans Association won the right to participate in New York's Veterans' Day parade, but the GVA suffered for their persistence.

The GVA won the right to march after some high-level pressure from City Hall forced the American Legion to grudgingly include the gay vets.

However, allegedly poor placement in the parade by the Legion may have led to two incidents against the group. The GVA was placed at the very end of the parade just in back of an ambulance. When the 30 gay vets reached Fifth Ave., a young man lunged at the group's 4 x 6 banner and cut it with either a small knife or a set of keys.

Later, when the group was to join other vets in laying a wreath in memory of fallen war heroes at Madison Square Park, a man identified as Paul Morrissey spray-painted the GVA's wreath. Morrissey had been ejected from City Hall over gay rights bill hearings earlier this year. Morrissey also dressed in disguise and grabbed a Gay Pride Week proclamation from Mayor Ed Koch and tore it to shreds.

Andres Winter, acting president of the GVA, said he planned on telling the Legion that his group will not be treated as "second class citizens" next year by the Legion.

—*The New York Native*

Holocaust Memorial Head Promises He Won't Forget Gays

WASHINGTON — The top official for the United States Holocaust Memorial Council assured gay men and lesbians that homosexual victims of the Nazi Holocaust will not be forgotten. In an interview with the Washington Blade, Council director Richard Krieger said that "inclusion of all who were persecuted is an absolute." He said that congressional legislation mandating a museum dictates a

Bombarded With Hate Mail

'No Regrets': Pro-Gay Editor

One thing an editor expects after a controversial editorial is a barrage of letters. Magazine editor David Bunnell got that barrage ... and then some.

Bunnell, who edits PC World and MacWorld (a pair of computer-oriented magazines), had written a blistering attack on the state of Georgia for its oppressive sodomy law. He wrote his editorial to draw attention to the fact that so much of the personal computer industry is located in Georgia. He added that there are many gay men and lesbians in the industry and that maybe someone should start telling Georgia Gov. Joe Frank Harris that the sodomy law should go.

Well, Bunnell got his barrage of letters. Not many of them were favorable, either. He said that of the estimated 1,000 letters he has received, only about 20 percent of them were favorable. Some people told him he didn't have any business putting the editorial in a personal

facility that pays tribute to "the memory and recognition of the victims of the Holocaust and the other victims that died in the Nazi genocide of 1939-45."

Krieger had earlier accepted copies of *The Pink Triangle*, Richard Plant's book about Nazi persecution of gay men and lesbians. According to limited research, about 15,000 gays were imprisoned in Nazi death camps with roughly two-thirds dying.

Krieger said one reason he is grateful for gifts such as the Plant book is the fact that even members of his council have a lot to learn about victims of the Holocaust, whether they were homosexuals, Jews, gypsies, or any other kind of minority group.

The national Holocaust mu-

seum is scheduled to open in 1989. Construction has not yet begun. It will be built entirely with private funds.

—*The Washington Blade*

Would They Pay Fine In 'Gay \$'?

CHICAGO — Two Chicago gay bar owners have vowed to carry on their "Gay \$" campaign despite an order to cease and desist. Frank Kellas and Marge Summit had started to mark dollar bills with the legend, "Gay \$" However, U.S. Attorney Anton R. Valukas sent federal agents to serve summons to both Kellas and Summit.

Kellas and Summit said that Valukas' order will not stop their

campaign, which attempts to show gay and lesbian economic power. The two bar owners started the campaign in response to a failure last July by the Chicago City Council to add protections based on "sexual orientation" to Chicago's Human Rights Code.

Kellas and Summit said they are prepared to go to prison if necessary. However, Joan Saiford, chief of Tax and Financial Services for the U.S. Attorney's office said that the maximum fine per violation (which could mean each marked bill) is \$500. No jail term is called for in the statute.

—*The Windy City Times of Chicago*



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BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 8, 1987 PAGE 13

Booze Is Out; Partying Is In

by Allen White

New Year's Eve 1987 proved that people are taking the option of liquor and drug free parties very seriously. Over 500 people packed the recreation hall at the First Unitarian Church on Franklin Street for the Living Sober party. Living Sober is the gay and lesbian offshoot of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Filling Muni Metro cars by the hundreds they left Castro for their evening to party. Others arrived by taxi and at least one person attended the event by limousine. Many more than were expected jammed the facility.

Living Sober provided a disc jockey, decorated the hall with balloons, and provided complimentary food served with soft drinks and Calistoga. This year the Living Sober party crossed over into a major gay event for New Year's Eve. Organizers noted that many who attended, in fact, have no substance problem but simply chose an alcohol free environment.

It was estimated that over 20,000 people attended the dozens of First Night events across the city. The celebration reportedly broke even on their \$100,000 expenditure. Hundreds of gay performers were featured during the evening.

As with the Living Sober party, the First Night concept was to present an evening where people could go without a drop of liquor being served. Many locations

across the city were jammed with First Night ticketholders.

The premier New Year's Eve event in San Francisco was the Trojan Men party at the Giftcenter. Thousands danced through the night until the party ended at 9 in the morning.

With flashlight in hand, producer Sanford Kellman was high above the dance floor monitoring lighting and sound equipment. All the action was keyed to the audio tape which began at a precise moment to reach its climax at midnight.

Eric Sutter and the other Trojan Men had rehearsed for days to make the presentation perfect. Thousands of dollars were spent to construct a huge moving Trojan Horse. At the stroke of midnight over 3,000 balloons were released from the Giftcenter ceiling. Later that evening, Gwen Guthrie performed her hit songs.

At the Endup the bar was jammed throughout the night for their musical review. And at the San Francisco Eagle, Mister Marcus held forth as hundreds crowded that nightspot to welcome in

the New Year.

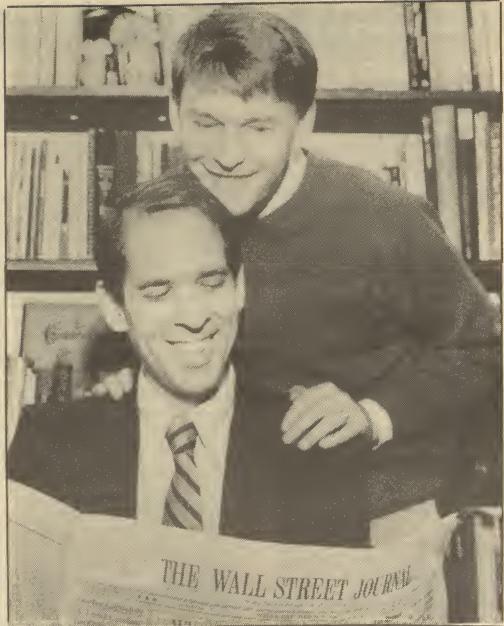
As many chose to spend the evening at home without liquor, so others opted to spend the evening at home watching television. Many chose to watch Sylvester in the New Year with Charles Nelson Reilly on the Joan Rivers Show. The San Francisco-based performer was able to announce that his "Someone Like You" single is now the number one dance record in the country. He also took the moment to show off his dazzling wedding rings given him by his lover. Joan Rivers gave a nod to the parents of the lovers with a coyly stated, "Surprise!"

Taxes!

A free six week course covering basic income tax information is being offered through the Castro/Ventura site of the San Francisco Community College Centers. The class begins on Jan. 14 and will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9.

Included in the class will be discussion of small business taxes, allowable personal deductions, rental property expenses, and the new tax law. The instructor is Jan Zobel, E.A., a tax practitioner in private practice who is registered to represent taxpayers in IRS related matters.

The income tax class is open to all interested San Francisco residents and registration will take place at the first class session. The Castro/Ventura site is located at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street. For more information, call 648-5866 or 558-9987.



Former Wall Street Journal columnist R. Foster Winans.
(Photo: J. McNally/Esquire)

Gay Journalist And Lover Take Case To Supreme Court

by George Mendenhall

A gay Wall Street insider, R. Foster Winans, and his companion, David Carpenter, will have their criminal convictions for profiting from insider knowledge heard before the U.S. Supreme Court in April or next autumn. The men were apprehended in 1984 when Winans served as a Wall Street Journal columnist and Carpenter as the newspaper's news clerk.

Winans wrote the popular "Heard on the Street" column in 1983 when a scheme was devised wherein he would pass information on to others so they could buy and sell stocks at an advantage. Together, the dealers were able to divide \$700,000 in profits over a five month 1983-84 period. Winans and his friend pocketed \$31,000.

Nine press organizations and the Securities Industry Association, including the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, supported the two men in their earlier appeals. The organizations argued that, while Winans and Carpenter acted unethically, they had not violated the securities laws. The Securities and Exchange Commission pleaded with the high court not to hear the appeals.

The prosecution successfully claimed that Winans passed secret information in order to profit. A United States Court of Appeals ruled that Winans had violated the Journal's written

policy against conflicts of interest, claiming the newspaper was a victim of the scheme because of potential damage to its reputation.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is watching the Winans case closely. One Washington securities lawyer, Arthur Mathews, believes that if the convictions are upheld, "it could make it easier for the commission or the Department of Justice to go after lawyers, accountants and other professionals who are somewhere on the periphery of corporate transactions, mergers and acquisitions."

The gay defendants have also challenged their mail and wire fraud convictions, claiming that Congress has never explicitly branded what they were doing as crimes. Personal revelations about the relationship between Winans and Carpenter became public when the normally staid Journal reported that they were homosexual companions shortly after their arrest.

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— Bill Chastain

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The Stop AIDS Project is funded in part by the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health and the California Dept. of Health Services.

Design: Ken Henderson



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Photo: Tony Piewik

Talent Show At The Endup

A talent show will be held at the Endup, Thursday, Jan. 15, 8 p.m., to benefit the 1st International Ms. Leather contest. All varieties of talent are sought for this event. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the talent show.

Proceeds from the First International Ms. Leather contest will benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, Coming Home Hospice, AWARE, AIDS Alternative Health Project, and the Women's AIDS Network.

Tickets, t-shirts and posters for the 1st Annual International Ms. Leather are now on sale. Write:

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Stephen Allen Roake's award-winning design on Corbett St.

S.F. Architect Wins Award For Condo Design

Stephen Allen Roake, a longtime resident in the Castro community who hates box-like housing, has just won a major national award because of that. At a banquet in the recently-restored Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., the National Home Builders Association bestowed a top planning and design award on Roake for his environmentally-sensitive treatment of four townhouses on Corbett Street at Clayton in San Francisco.

Roake, who lives in the Castro and has had his offices on Market Street for 11 years, has made a specialty of designing compatible units in smaller-scale Upper Market neighborhoods.

In selecting Roake, the judges stated, "Like a Chinese puzzle, Corbett View Condominiums interlock and overlap. But the

design strategy wasn't just fun and games: the complex planning was also a way to fit four units onto a steep site just larger than a tenth of an acre."

The award also cited Roake's preservation of views and harmony with its neighbors, a row of century-old Victorian cottages.

Roake was one of 52 architects

in the nation to be so honored by the homebuilders association.

Earlier, Roake won a California Building Officials' Highest Design in the Multifamily Category by overcoming political and physical challenges, as well as esthetic ones, for the same development at Corbett and Clayton.

"What I attempt to do," Roake says, "is to propose a fresh, contemporary design carefully tempered with traditional and familiar forms, materials and colors to reflect the heritage of San Francisco."

A longtime member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, he has won similar accolades for harmonious design in other older neighborhoods. ●

'Body Politic' Breathes Its Last

Canadian Journal To Fold In February

by Will Snyder

A sense of the bittersweet came with the January issue of Body Politic when it hit Canadian newsstands this month. The cover said, "Reason to Celebrate!" "Ontario Says Yes to Rights!" "We Turn Sweet Fifteen!" But it was a muted celebration for many Canadian lesbians and gay men. The word was out: Body Politic, the Toronto-based magazine run by a collective, was ready to go out of business.

Body Politic had been known as Canada's "Magazine For Lesbian/Gay Liberation" since 1971. After the February 1987 issue, however, the magazine will be no more. According to Ken Popert, dwindling circulation, a projected \$40,000 deficit and the desire by the publishers at Pink Triangle Press to concentrate on an entertainment magazine call-

ed Extra, spelled the doom of the newsmagazine.

"We're suspending mainly for financial reasons," said Popert. "We project that our revenues for 1986 will be the same as in 1985. And after that, it should be understood that costs have gone up."

The magazine's circulation had been stalled at about 7,000.

New 'Challenge to Be' Program

The Parsonage, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of California on Castro Street, is pleased to announce a reformulated Challenge to Be course for 1987. Over the course of six Saturdays participants are invited to share with one another on various topics. This serves to deepen their understanding of their sexuality in the context of spirituality.

Topics covered are spirituality and sexuality, listening to ourselves and others, homophobia and lesbian/gay spirituality, self-esteem and loneliness, and gifts

for ministry. Dates of the program are Jan. 10 & 17, Feb. 7, 14, & 28 and Mar. 7. All are invited to participate regardless of ethnic, religious or sexual background.

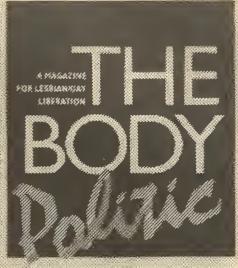
Cost of the seminar series is \$35, which will cover speaker honoraria and a compendium of articles and other materials to be studied during the sessions. Learn more about yourself!

For information and registration contact The Parsonage, 555 A Castro Street (next to Headlines), 552-2909. ●

Combine that with rising publication costs, distribution costs and the inability to obtain broad national distribution and the collective felt the situation had become impossible. Popert said the suspension of publication had been a topic in Pink Triangle Press offices for some time.

Popert hinted that "while we are ceasing publication for the time being," there could be another newsmagazine in Pink Triangle's future. "We'll have to wait and see whether the revenues improve," said Popert. "If there is a new publication, it probably wouldn't be known as Body Politic."

Body Politic gained its greatest notoriety when it won a five-year court battle with the Ontario province government who charged the magazine with distributing indecent material. The charges related to publication of an article titled, "Men Loving Boys Loving Men" which described sexual acts between young boys and men. The magazine was also well-regarded for its international news and arts coverage. ●



Homicides

(Continued from page 1)

number since 1981. After a high of 130 killings in 1981, statistics revealed a low of 75 in 1984, and an increase to 86 in 1985. Included in the rise in homicides was also a larger number of gays killed in 1986.

Lieut. George Kowalski, who heads the SFPD's Homicide Department, said gays are killed for the same reasons as straights. But Kowalski said the primary difference is the apparent higher number of gay men who are killed by people they meet in bars who are strangers.

This concern was expressed last October. At the time Kowalski said, "None of these killings have been the work of one individual but there is a pattern and that's what we're trying to warn people about." Kowalski continued, "It's like playing Russian roulette. Bring a different stranger home with you every night and sooner or later it's going to catch up with you."

Last Monday, Sups. John Molinari and Harry Britt requested the Board of Supervisors to ask Mayor Dianne Feinstein to offer a reward in the killings of Rung and Smith.

Sup. Molinari also contacted Diana Christensen at CUAV and Jim Bonko with the San Francisco Tavern Guild to express his concern at the rash of murders. A meeting has been called for Friday afternoon in Molinari's office to discuss a strategy for the gay community. "It will be a brainstorming session," Christensen said.

Last October, CUAV distributed flyers throughout the city when several men were murdered. James Jackson, a 42-year-old McAfee High School teacher was killed in his apartment on

Pope

(Continued from page 4)

"Official San Francisco 1987 Papal Welcoming Committee" in the absence of any Catholic group's taking that role in the city. Sister Sadie Sadie The Rabbi Lady and her cohorts will hold a press conference in front of Mission Dolores on Friday, Jan. 9 to kick off their own plans for the visit.

When asked whether an official welcoming committee had been formed to greet Pope John Paul II, Miles Riley, the archdiocese's director of communications, said, "Nope." As for plans of Sister Sadie, Sadie the Rabbi Lady, Riley asked, "What does that mean? I think the President is going to welcome the pope."

The city's newspapers, from B.A.R. to the Chronicle and Examiner, have been filled with columns, letters and editorials critical of the pope for his stand on relations with American clergy and homosexuality. The protests may spread from the editorial pages to the streets. A protest march is rumored at the moment. One San Franciscan, Carl Bush, is circulating a petition calling for the pope to cancel his trip to San Francisco.

Riley acknowledged that "there will be some protests. This is America." But he said he didn't foresee an Amsterdam-style reception for the pontiff. Amsterdam was the scene of a near-riot in 1985 when the pope visited the heavily-gay Dutch city. Riley said that "there's always a chance that he'll cancel his visit. Things could happen in other parts of the world."

Oct. 6. Roger Wade, 36, was murdered on Sept. 20. Investigators said Wade was last seen in the Pilsner Inn.

Michael Pedersen, 46, was knifed to death in his Upper Market Street apartment Sept. 9 by a man he is believed to have met in a leather bar. The man was later arrested. Angel Martinez, 37, was killed on Oct. 16 in his Tenderloin apartment.

Randy Schell, who works with clients at CUAV, was high in his praise of police in the Homicide Department. "They have continually been in communication with CUAV," said Schell. He said there has been an excellent cooperation between the two organizations.

Homicide Inspector Ed Erdelatz said, "We are now looking for anyone who may have seen David Rung on New Year's Eve." Any person having information is asked to call Erdelatz at 553-1145.

Police have also identified two men arrested last week in connection with the Christmas morning slaying of the clerk in the 7-Eleven store on 18th Street in the Castro. Lieut. Kowalski said the two, both charged with one count of murder and six counts of robbery, are residents of San Francisco. They are Gregory McClanahan, 30, and Joseph Boxley, 42. Both have lengthy

criminal records.

The two men entered the 7-Eleven store at 7:10 a.m. on Christmas morning and are charged with killing 33-year-old Keo Novang, a Laotian immigrant who had worked at the store for two and a half years.

Join The Hayride

Begin 1987 on the path to wellness with Louise L. Hay. The internationally recognized metaphysical counselor and author presents for the first time a series of seven lectures and workshops in San Francisco, beginning Thursday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m., with sessions once each month until July. Each workshop at Fort Mason Center is open to the general public.

These workshops are designed by Louise to share the tools she has developed over many years of extensive counseling and teaching. Her basic philosophy comes from a belief that we are all 100 percent responsible for our experiences, and the holistic approach to life's principles is the key to making our experiences positive and nurturing ones.

For more information, phone George McMahon at 826-2000.

Volunteers Needed in UC AIDS-Stress Study

Two University of California researchers believe that men who are seropositive for the AIDS virus can stay healthy by using stress reduction techniques. They are conducting a research project to prove that techniques such as stress management in daily life, meditation, and visualization can help the immune systems of infected men, or that stress reduction can prevent further damage in those who have come in contact with the AIDS virus.

Dr. Thomas Coates and Dr. Leon McKusick, both of the UC Department of Medicine, are conducting this research through the UC AIDS Clinical Research Center, under funds awarded by the State of California for clinical trials. They will be leading stress reduction groups over the next six months with men who are healthy but who have been tested positive for HIV.

According to project director McKusick, "Volunteers' immune systems will be tested before and after an eight-week stress reduction group, to see if what these men learn about reducing stress actually results in physiological improvement."

Dr. Coates, who has been involved in similar projects with other health problems, is convinced that when people reduce

stress it helps their health. "Correlational evidence links stress to disease in blood pressure research, some cancer studies, and even from our studies of gay men and AIDS. Now we want to see if reducing stress reduces disease risk. It is a new field experimentally, even though doctors have been recommending stress reduction for years."

The researchers are looking for volunteers who have received a positive result to the HIV antibody test, but who have not developed further symptoms. These men will come to eight stress reduction groups. There will be no charge for these groups. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should call Dr. Leon McKusick at 552-6356 and leave his address and phone, so that he can be contacted.

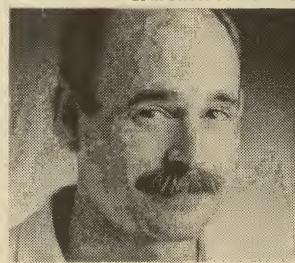
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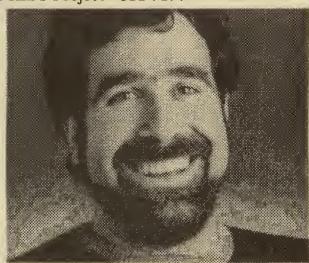
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ing to make Safe Sex hot, or just talking it over with other men, help is available. Call the AIDS Hotline and find out.



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S.F. Loses \$2.6M Due To Low Minority Involvement

by Marcy Rein

San Francisco lost out last summer on a \$2.6 million Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant for an AIDS education project because, sources close to the situation say, there is a lack of minority involvement in city programs.

Four years ago the gay community, frustrated by a bureaucracy that dallied as AIDS deaths multiplied, was rattling cages and raising hell to get the city to deal with the health crisis in its midst. Now, fired by a similar sense of urgency and outrage, minority AIDS activists are challenging the Department of Public Health to respond to the changing course of the epidemic.

The policy of the department's AIDS office could be characterized as "criminal neglect," according to one activist. The city health department has failed to move with the scope of the problem, say critics, has allocated insufficient funds for minority education and prevention programs, and has been unresponsive to community input. These concerns, expressed in dozens of private meetings and public forums over the last months, were focused most recently at the Dec. 16 hearing of the city's Health Commission on the AIDS Status Report and Preliminary Plan for 1987-88 prepared by the department's AIDS Office.

By this report's projections, San Francisco will see 654 cases of AIDS among people of color by 1988. This represents an elevenfold increase since 1984, the boldest of many epidemiological danger signals. But given that AIDS can take over five years to manifest, it is also just the tip of the iceberg.

Nationally, 40 percent of those with AIDS are people of color. In the large eastern cities, the concentration is even higher. And as Dr. George Rutherford, medical director for the AIDS Office, told the Health Commission, "We should be fully prepared to see the experience of the East Coast duplicated."

But while on the East Coast AIDS is attacking minority communities primarily as a disease of heterosexual IV drug users, 87 percent of the minority cases in the Bay Area so far have been gay and bisexual men, with the proportion of bisexuals twice as high as among whites.

Community-based service providers believe this contributes to a degree of underreporting. Yolanda Ronquillo, director of the Latino Community AIDS Education Project, observed, "There's a fear there, people stay isolated. We know from what we see at Instituto Familiar and on the streets that cases go unreported, unrecognized. We know this, but it's grapevine stuff. It's not obvious if you don't know the community, and we don't have numbers."

The rate at which new infection is spreading among people of color is also unknown, because the research has not been funded to provide baseline epidemiological information. What is known points to a marked increase. Research done this year at the Bayview-Hunters Point methadone clinic found 22-24 percent of those studied were antibody positive. The city placed the seropositivity rate for IV users at only 9 percent in 1985. Figures from the alternative test site program reveal a 35 percent seropositivity rate among blacks and Latinos, compared to 27 percent for whites.

According to the AIDS Office report, seroconversion rates are higher for substance abusers (gay, straight or bi) than for non-abusing gay men, so cases of AIDS among substance abusers can be expected to rise faster.



Dr. Galu Lester. (Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

and work under DPH administration.

As the numbers of cases have risen and the difficulties with DPH have deepened, several advocacy groups have formed. Among them are the Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force, Black Coalition on AIDS, Latino Coalition on AIDS/SIDA Education and Action, and KWIC/FAN. Separately and together they have met with DPH and the mayor's office, testified before the health committee of the board of supervisors and organized a demonstration of about 50 people at the DPH building.

Under pressure, the department is beginning to take steps such as developing the report, hiring a black pediatrician (Dr. Patricia Evans) in a liaison capacity, and appointing an Advisory Committee on AIDS Services in Ethnic Minority Communities. Comments at the Dec. 16 hearing made clear, however, that these are tools, not solutions.

The report, though generally lauded for its breadth, was faulted for its lack of specifics. Health Commissioner Naomi Gray commented, "This is really not a plan. It is a good report, but it needs goals and objectives, timetables, what we expect to accomplish in what time periods. This does not give me a sense we understand what direction to go. And women's and non-white populations' concerns should not be lumped together as the report does."

Similarly, participants say the advisory committee has been used to substitute the semblance of communication for the reality of action. The 56-member body has proven unwieldy, plagued with organizational snags such as unclear agendas, discussion papers mailed late, meetings set on short notice, all of which have added up to "a pattern of behavior that excludes people," as Third World Task Force chair Hank Tavera told the health commissioners.

The commissioners in attendance were generally responsive to the expressed needs, especially for more thorough outreach and a more accessible planning process. A proposal to hold a series of public forums on the AIDS report before it is finalized generated considerable interest.

The next draft of the report, incorporating program proposals and budget figures, is due in mid-January. At that point it will be clearer if the city is moving towards solutions for the changing crisis. In the end, "It is not simply an issue of minorities," said Amanda Houston-Hamilton, chair of the Black Coalition on AIDS. "It is a question of the city's inability to take up a broad public health stand, to deal with women and children, white gay IV users, monolinguals, the homeless — as well as people of color."

High Tech Goes Grassroots

HTG Puts San Jose on the Map; Members Network Builds Political Clout

by Gerard Koskovich

High Tech Gays: the phrase may conjure images of bionic clones in the distant future, but in fact it has nothing to do with science fiction. HTG is a San Jose-based organization of lesbian and gay professionals in high tech industries — and as such is very much concerned with serving the present needs of a growing community in Santa Clara County.

"The group is predominantly social," said HTG president Rick Rudy in a recent interview. "Above all, we provide opportunities for people to network, find out what businesses are doing in the area, and which ones are comfortable places to work."

"But we also have a Political and Business Action Committee," Rudy emphasized. "Its activities aren't as heavily attended as the social functions, but our members do support it."

According to Rudy, HTG formed over four years ago as a chapter of the now defunct Lesbian and Gay Associated Engineers based in San Francisco. HTG became an independent organization in 1983 and has registered an impressive record of successes.

"We started with 12 members and have been growing ever since," Rudy said. "Our paid membership is now at 400, and we have almost a thousand people on our mailing list."

HTG's monthly pot-luck recently moved from the Campbell Community Center to the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center in San Jose. The meeting routinely attracts 150 members of the group and their guests — a fact which has not escaped the notice of local politicians.

"We've had the vice-mayor of San Jose and other elected officials visit," Rudy said. "They don't get to address any group of this size very often."

Among HTG's political activities is an ongoing effort to improve the work environment for

lesbians and gay men in Silicon Valley.

"Over a period of a year, we have contacted about 115 companies where our members work," Rudy explained. "We sent letters letting them know about HTG, letting them know there is a gay population at their company, and expressing concern that their policy manual include a statement of equal opportunity on the basis of sexual orientation."

Results of the campaign have been mixed, according to Rudy. A number of companies replied that they already have such policies, "but otherwise, we really haven't gotten very much by way of favorable response," he said.

"I think it's going to take a very slow process of education. I would like to see our Political and Business Action Committee effort garner more support from our members," Rudy said. "And see more people working within their own companies to promote understanding of gay people."

"It's very difficult. There's a great deal of resistance to hearing about gay people and gay people's problems out loud," Rudy continued. "It's hard for much of the straight community to admit that gay people can in fact be productive and useful employees in any setting."

Rudy's position as president of HTG has made him a frequent spokesperson for — and defender of — the gay community in San Jose.

"I think the reputation of the San Jose community has been bolstered — in an unfortunate way, certainly — by the AIDS scare," Rudy said. "People who used to say, 'I'm from near San Francisco,' now very happily say, 'I'm from San Jose or Los Gatos or Cupertino.' It's frightening, but now San Francisco is kind of *persona non grata* because of AIDS."

According to Rudy, "San Jose is recognized nationally as a business environment, the center of the high tech industry. All the same, this is a residential community. It's not a big city environment, with big city, gay ghetto concerns."

At the same time, Rudy emphasized, "The community has been making itself a lot more visible in the past couple of years." The work of HTG and the Bay Area Municipal Elections Commission, which recently coordinated the local No On 64 campaign, have been central to this new visibility, he said.

Rudy's election last year to the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has brought increased notice to HTG and the San Jose gay community.



High Tech Gays and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force shared a booth on Spartan Field at San Jose State University during the annual Gay Pride Celebration in June.

(Photo: Gerard Koskovich)

Dolan

(Continued from page 4)
himself apparently thought nobody knew."

Young once asked Dolan bluntly, "Are you homosexual or not?" "No, I'm not," Dolan replied, "but I don't see that that's a question."

Dolan was also interviewed in the Village Voice by Larry Bush, now an aide to State Assemblyman Art Agnos. He told him reporters were always asking that question and said "It's not true and aren't they ashamed for asking."

Dolan fluctuated on gay rights. The national press ran an article in 1982 stating that Dolan had told Bush that if a law was needed to protect gay people from discrimination there should be such a law. Dolan responded, saying, "I do not, nor have I ever endorsed gay rights."

On another occasion, Dolan urged "I'm against gay rights. As I understand it, they are demanding quotas and special treatment." He added that individuals were always allowed to discriminate in America and the government should make no laws saying they had to rent or sell to anybody they didn't want to. Dolan added that government should not discriminate against gay people or anyone else "except as security risks."

He also told writer Young, "I believe homosexuality is a local issue. I don't care what they do in San Francisco. I don't want to live there."

Asked about how Dolan reconciled his gayness with his conservative politics, (Duke) Armstrong said, "He never did reconcile it. He always had an uneasy feeling dealing with it."

Gay activists — many of them liberal Democrats — were angered by Dolan's success at defeating congressional candidates who supported gay rights. For example, in 1982 Dolan said senatorial candidate Maureen Reagan, "Is the type of person who, in the middle of a war, would go out and shoot our wounded?" Reagan was openly supporting gay rights at the time.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Bush said that although Dolan supported the political right, he actually worked "behind the scenes" to help the gay rights movement. He said while Dolan was a member of a group to reduce federal legal services for the poor, he helped take a section out of the bill that would have cut gay people from the program. He said Dolan performed a similar task in getting anti-gay language out of the Family Protection Act.

Dolan also told Bush he had kept the White House from endorsing a plan by Jerry Falwell to have people with AIDS quarantined. Bush said Dolan also assisted the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York with advice and helped form gay Republican clubs.

Attorney Duke Armstrong, former president of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, first met Dolan when they were both political aides in Washington. He said they later went to gay bars together when Dolan visited San Francisco and that Dolan would offer useful political advice. Armstrong said Dolan was dedicated, drawing only a modest \$35,000 a year salary in spite of the large sums he raised for the political right.

Asked about how Dolan reconciled his gayness with his conservative politics, Armstrong said, "He never did reconcile it. He always had an uneasy feeling dealing with it."

Bush said that in the end Dolan was still "trying to find a way out of the box he had built for himself. He never found that way out. Even when he died, he was still denying — this time that he had AIDS."

According to Armstrong, it is unclear what will become of NCPAC since, he said, "it was founded and run by Terry Dolan and was largely a one-man operation."

U.C. Conferences Planned On AIDS, Mental Health

Psychological and community impacts of AIDS will be discussed at three conferences in Northern California in January. The two-day conferences will be held at San Jose State University on Jan. 9-10, University of California-Berkeley on Jan. 23-24, and University of California-Davis on Jan. 30-31.

Physicians and mental health professionals from throughout the state will hear lectures from experts in AIDS medicine and psychology, and will discuss how well psychological aspects of the AIDS crisis are being handled in the area and how services can be improved.

These professional conferences are sponsored by the University of California-San Francisco's AIDS Clinical Research Center, the AIDS Health Project and local AIDS service organizations.

The California Department of Mental Health has provided the funds for this series of conferences, which also was conducted in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Diego last fall.

Faculty from University of California campuses and local agencies will speak on issues of medical treatment, neurological problems associated with AIDS, and how to broaden local strategies to fight the disease. People who have AIDS will describe their experiences. Social workers and psychologists will discuss important issues of diagnosis and treatment of the psychiatric disorders that accompany infection with

the AIDS virus, and how to educate people to prevent the spread of AIDS in this community. A special administrative seminar will invite local leaders to assess the impact of AIDS upon their organizations.

Other issues covered will be the psychological impact of AIDS upon the practitioner, the issue of AIDS in minority communities, intravenous drug abuse and AIDS, psychological issues of death and dying, and AIDS in teenagers, as well as important information on the medical diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

The conferences will provide important information and consultation and advice for California mental health and medical practitioners who are receiving AIDS patients or members of at-risk populations in their practices.

The meetings will be held in the student union buildings at each campus. They will begin at 9 a.m. on both days.

Registration is now underway. Those interested in attending should contact Linda Meredith of UCSF at 476-9126.

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DEATHS

Rocky Kent Aley

Born Aug. 9, 1953, Rocky Aley died of pneumocystis on Dec. 3. His friends Robert Farrell and Joan Field were with Rocky through his final moments.

Rocky had won the fight to overcome drug addiction and alcohol dependence several years ago. He gave freely of himself to others engaged in that struggle. Rocky was there with love, honesty and commitment.

Rocky never gave up in his difficult two-year battle with ARC. He is survived by family in Tennessee; his mother Peggy Adelmann, and his brothers Richard, Randy, Ronald and Rudy.

A memorial for Rocky was held on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Father Joe's chapel.

Stephen Bernard Gray

Born in Detroit on Dec. 14, 1950 and died in San Francisco on Dec. 28 after a long struggle with AIDS. A Navy veteran, Stephen lived in the Tenderloin for a dozen years and worked part-time at the Blue and Gold for many years in addition to his regular job at the Veteran's Hospital at Fort Miley. He is survived by two daughters in the East and by his devoted and loyal friend Tojeaux Richards here in the City.

Joseph A. Eisenbeiser

Joe died on Dec. 20 of AIDS. He was born on June 13, 1936 in New York City.

He graduated from American International College in Springfield, MA and did graduate studies at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

After teaching at high school level for several years, Joe worked for social service organizations and then became an antique dealer in New York. His true love and sound knowledge of art objects motivated him for the rest of his life.

Joe moved to San Francisco in 1980 and worked for the Resource Foundation. The last few years he devoted much of his time to writing.

He leaves his parents and a brother in Massachusetts. His friends will miss his very warm smile and inquisitive mind.

Michael Dana Phillips

Sept. 2, 1955 - Oct. 29, 1986

Mike Phillips passed on peacefully to the other side at San Francisco Medical Center of Malignant Malnutrition on Oct. 29, 1986. His father was at his side.

Born in Baton Rouge, LA, 31 years ago, Mike was raised in the Reno, Nevada area, and moved to San Francisco in the late 1970s. Mike was a popular bartender/waiter at various bars and restaurants and was a regular figure behind the bar at Buzzy's during the early 1980s and later on at the Castro Station.

He is survived by his father, two sisters, and two brothers-of-the-heart, Rick and Mike, as well as scores of friends. His ready smile, cheerful countenance and generous heart will be deeply missed.

He was placed at rest with his mother in Reno, Nevada.

Goodbye, dear friend.

Gerald S. Martin

Gerald S. Martin died peacefully, at the age of 35, on Oct. 1, 1986 in San Francisco, 25 months after being diagnosed with AIDS. He passed from this world in the company of his family and close friends, and, at his request, listening to his favorite arias sung by his favorite singer, Leontyne Price.

Gerald grew up in the Bay Area, serving as President of his high school student body. He attended Stanford University, studying in Italy and traveling in Europe his sophomore year. He went to UCLA Law School, graduating in 1976. Gerald later worked for many years as Assistant Director of the Legal Referral Service of the Bar Association of San Francisco. He also was a member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Gerald loved people, music, entertaining, fine cooking, clothes and style, and English History, among so much more. He was gifted with both a quick wit, and an exceptional sensitivity to, and appreciation for, subtlety in people and in all things beautiful.

Gerald's keen sense of humor, enthusiasm for living, and gentle, giving spirit will continue to live in the hearts of all those fortunate enough to have known him.

Richard S. Cochran

Rick Cochran, 37, died of AIDS in his San Francisco home with his close friends and loving caretakers nearby. He passed away peacefully on Jan. 2.

He was born in West Virginia; lived in Indianapolis and Chicago before moving to San Francisco in 1980. He traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia.

Rick received his law degree from the University of San Francisco and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1985. He previously received Masters Degrees in both Education and History in Indianapolis.

While in San Francisco, Richard Cochran developed a career as an insurance claims adjustment specialist with Kemper and Hartford companies.

Those who knew Rick remember him for this devotion to career objectives and to his friends. He provided many good times. And whatever Rick did, he did with great style.

Richard Cochran is survived by his lover, Dan Perdios, and many loving friends; by his parents, Betty and Pete Cochran of West Virginia; by his sisters, Sharon and Delana; and by his brothers, Daniel, Karl and Paul.

A memorial service and party in celebration of Rick's life will be held on Jan. 12, 7 p.m., at MCC, 150 Eureka, San Francisco.

Donations in Rick's name are requested for Shanti Project.

Daniel Campos

Dan Campos passed quietly from this life on Jan. 2 at 4:30 p.m. Present at his bedside during the final hours were his family and dear friends.

At peace now, he is closer to us now than he ever could have been while in his body on earth.

For information please call Michael Harwell at (415) 949-2480.

Alex-5

Poet/Performance Artist Alex 5, age 31, was diagnosed with AIDS on Friday, Dec. 13. In true theatrical form, he died peacefully at home on the last day of 1986. At his bedside were his lovers and performance partners Jay De Baun and Johnny Perfect Land.



Alex-5 wrote and directed *Pedestrian Tunnels*, *Abandoned Attic*, and *Dog Eat Dog*. His best known work was *Godzilla Voice*, a visual-musical exploration of the foibles of love. It premiered at the Laguna Beach Museum of Art in 1983, and was adapted to video. In 1985 it was a finalist in the Gay Video Festival, and was also featured at the San Francisco Art Commission Gallery presentation *Crisis And Chariot* in January of 1986.

In his own words: "I don't particularly aim at one audience member, but try to touch and discover ways in which we can all get along."

At his request, he will be cremated. In lieu of a memorial service, a wake is to be held at his residence. His poetry will be published this year so others will be able to appreciate his gifts of words and imagery.

Last, but certainly not least, we thank the San Francisco AIDS Hospice Group for their never-ending love and support.

Bill Snyder

Bill Snyder passed away on Friday, Jan. 2, after a year-long struggle with AIDS. He never complained as he went through treatments and became slowly more debilitated.



Bill could dish with the best of them but never gossiped about anyone. His simple, quiet Indiana approach to life and unique sense of humor warmed the hearts of many. He was kind and gentle, his big brown eyes took everything in with warmth and compassion.

He will be sadly missed by his mother, Isabel Snyder; sister Karen Kenniger, and father, Merl Snyder; as well as his San Francisco family: Rachel, Michael, Pam, Lon, Dick, Darrel, Tony, Judy, Becky, Dottie, and especially his roommates, Vincent and Bill.

A celebration of his life will be held Sat., Jan. 10, from 3-5 p.m. Information is available from Vincent Cozzitorti at 864-2340.

David Edward Stephens

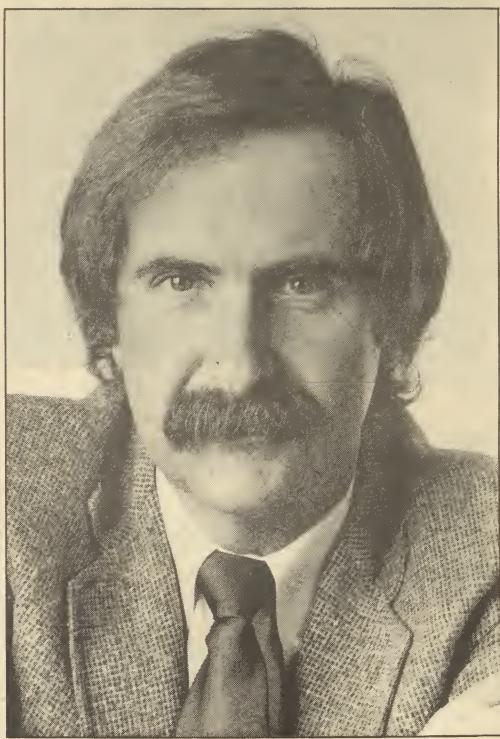
David Edward Stephens, 38, died on Dec. 24 in Palm Springs of AIDS.

David was born in San Mateo and grew up in Menlo Park. After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, he lived in San Francisco and Los Angeles before moving to Cathedral City two years ago. He was an active volunteer at Desert Hospital's Patient Relations Department and a member of the Board of Directors of the Desert AIDS Project. He was also a member of the Palm Springs Museum, the Desert Business Association, the Living Desert and the Desert Hospital Auxiliary.

He is survived by his parents, Robert and Nancy Stephens of Carmel, California; his sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Bill Yeates of Monterey, and his nephew, Zachary David Yeates, also of Monterey. The family suggests contributions to: The Desert AIDS Project, P.O. Box 8925, Palm Springs, CA 92263.

(Continued on page 22)

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS



San Mateo County Sup. Tom Nolan

Nolan To Head San Mateo Sups.

With his election as president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Tom Nolan now holds the highest elective position of any openly gay person in California. Nolan was elected by his peers on Jan. 6.

Elected to a four-year term on the Board of Supervisors in 1984, Nolan's sexual orientation made local press headlines initially.

Soon after taking office, Nolan was instrumental in creating an AIDS Task Force in a county which had not yet dealt with the growing crisis. The task force has been instrumental in helping to locate in Redwood City — Nolan's hometown — the first hospice in the state intended exclusively for people with AIDS.

The hospice — called ELLIPSE — is scheduled to open in early 1987 at 631 Woodside Road, Redwood City. The 16-bed facility is intended for persons with AIDS who do not require hospitalization but need some medical care as well as physical and psychological therapy. The skilled-nursing facility also will accommodate AIDS patients undergoing experimental drug treatments that require monitoring.

The San Mateo County AIDS Task Force also has established a successful Buddies program that matches persons with AIDS with others to assist in a variety of services.

At Nolan's suggestion, the county includes gay and lesbian concerns in its sexual harassment policy and training programs. Sexual orientation is now routinely included as a non-discriminatory category in all county contracts.

Nolan spearheaded the No on Proposition 64 campaign in San Mateo County last fall, resulting in a whopping 75 percent vote against the measure.

Nolan also represents San Mateo County on several Bay Area organizations, including: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the Bay Area Council's Steering Committee.

He also is a member of SamTrans and chairman of the San Mateo County Housing Task Force.

San Mateo County, one of the most affluent counties in California, has a population of 625,000.



Oakland Vigil Mysteriously Ends

One Participant Disappears; Site Abandoned

by Charles Linebarger

The Oakland AIDS-ARC Vigil fell apart suddenly on New Year's Day under circumstances that are still mysterious. One of the Vigil's two participants, Jack Hanna, has disappeared and was unavailable to comment on what happened. J. C. Keller, a man with ARC, told the Bay Area Reporter that, for the time being, the Vigil is over although he would like to continue.

"Jack left the Vigil site at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve," said Keller. "He said he was going home to take a shower and he asked for some money (from the donations made to the vigil) to take home for safe-keeping. I gave him \$44."

"At 9 p.m. he came back and looked disoriented. He was with three other men," continued Keller. "He asked for more money but I didn't have anymore. He went over to the bar (Paradise Bar and Grill) and asked Fred (Fred Corella, the owner) for some more money. I haven't seen him since. He told me he'd be back by midnight for a New Year's Eve party."

According to Keller, three men approached him on the morning of New Year's day. One told him that Hanna owed him money, that he was Hanna's partner and that if Keller didn't pay them "you're dead." Keller, too, then left the Vigil site.

Fred Corella of the Paradise Bar and Grill corroborated Keller's story. "He (Hanna) came by here the last day he was around. He drove up with some guys in a car and borrowed \$40. He said something about needing it for a kerosene heater and seemed in a hurry and sort of blurry. I had some people with me and I didn't question it at all."

Corella added, "He (Hanna) is such a nice guy I can't say anything wrong about him. The pressure just got to be too much. It's bitter cold out there. I'm not going to judge the man. He did well for what he did do. He put the city fathers in a mood to put out the money (for AIDS)."

Employees from the Paradise Bar and Grill helped Keller move the Vigil's possessions to the bar. While cleaning up the site, syringes and liquor bottles were found, according to Francis, chef at the Paradise.

Said a somewhat beleaguered Keller, "I'm going to try to take up where we left off, but right now I'm not in a position to go anywhere or do anything."

Bob Kegeles, past chair of EBARO, the East Bay AIDS Resource Organization, told B.A.R., "I do believe the Vigil served its purpose to identify the existence of a problem in the East Bay, to say in a loud voice that we have an AIDS problem that is not being dealt with. It's raised the consciousness of the county supervisors. They're now aware

one manifestation of anger, and our response to the Vigil was one manifestation that we're feeling unhappy with things. There is a feeling that we need to become more activist."

Speaking for Alameda County, Jane Riggan, of the office that is currently putting together the county's AIDS plan, "I think we will be recommending that the supervisors vote for the AIDS allocation."

That vote should be held in the Alameda County Supervisors' Council Chamber on Jan. 27. •

Gary Schneider
AT THE ORGAN

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What Happened To The Vigil?

VACUOUS BUT NOT UNREMEMBERED (A "What Happened?" Nose)

The two who had chained themselves to the Alameda County administration building to protest a lack of AIDS funding mysteriously ended their vigil.

With no word of explanation, both Jack Hanna and J.C. Keller vacated their self-imposed surveillance. Not only are they among the missing, but also gone are the donated tent, sleeping bags, portable TV, and other contributions from a caring community.

Those most closely associated with the bestowments are at a loss for words concerning the abrupt departure. Rumors about needles and syringes have surfaced, but no details have become available as to the whys and wherefores. The fact remains, however, that their hasty embarkation seems to be a coup de bec, if you will, to all those who gave support and encouragement.

Hopefully, explanations will come forth soon to placate the uneasiness and disappointment felt by so many who cared. If credible reasons don't surface, other such groups and organizations just might be hard-pressed to garner support in this town. "It's a hard pill to swallow."

COSMOPOLITAN COMPOTATION (An "Eating" Nose)

The A.C.I.E. hosted an International Holiday Buffet at T&C on Monday, Dec. 29 — and what a feast (and feast and fete) it was! The place got packed about 8 p.m., and the plates of food were being consumed at a feverish pace. Jim Malone was concerned there might not be enough left for him, so he prepared a platter-full and hid it in the kitchen while he continued his scullery duties. Lo and behold, while he wasn't looking, the entire portion disappeared. Of course, no one knows anything.

Gifts were exchanged among the ACIEers who were present. Terry's "portable dildo" was a surprise. So much so, she immediately re-presented it to Princess Royal Roberta. His Cheshire grin spoke volumes.

What a nice gesture for A.C.I.E. to end 1986. Applause to all from the Council and Court who contributed their time, energy, and the culinary creations. It was appreciated. There don't seem to be any indications that this court will slow down in the least, this new year.

HOTCHPOTCH (A Pastiche Nose)

What previous Empress returned to town ("Things just didn't work out in Arizona!") only to have her heads read "royally" by a current Emperor? Check your memory banks for the answer to that one. Did Johnny say "thanks," David?

Your guess is as good as mine as to why Heather is known as "Ugly Sister V." Were there really four before her? Or is it because of her height?

Oh, yes! There will be a "Seventh Annual Chili Cook-Off" at Revol. It will be on Monday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. This time all proceeds will go to East Bay Assistance Fund. Entry blanks are available at Revol. This year's entry fee will be \$5. All chilis will be sold for a buck a bowl. First place will receive \$100; second, \$75; third, \$50.

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, through Fairmont Hospital and AIDS Project of the East Bay, is making available P.S.* I Care packets. (*Play Safe) Each packet contains vital information, instructions on safe sex, two condoms, and two samples of PROBE lubricant. These free packets will be available at Revol and Town & Country in about two weeks. For further information, call 667-3219 or 420-8181.

Such are the doors that will open when one has a title: Jim H. (one of the two Miss 99 Cents) was seen rehearsing and practicing on the planks of Town & Country. Yep, he was doing the bartender bit, replacing Suzie while she's on vacation. Want to buy a bar, Jim?

It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so damned ingenious! I can smile. Love,

Nez •

Insemination Study

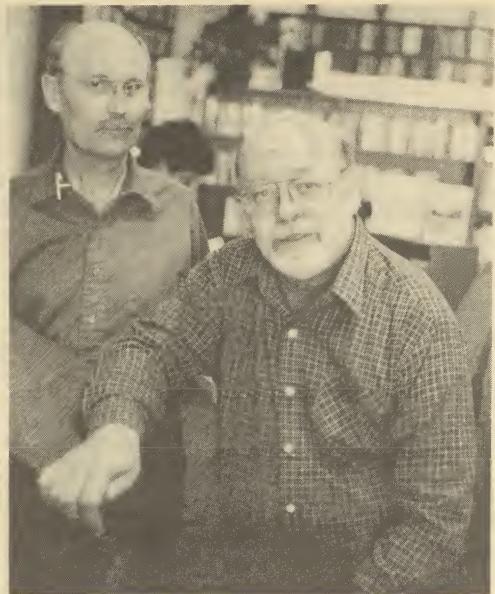
Lesbians who have used artificial insemination since 1979 are asked to join an important statewide research study at the University of California in Berkeley. The study aims to determine whether women who have used artificial insemination are at risk of being exposed to the AIDS virus.

Women do not have to use their real names to participate in the study, the sponsors said. All identifying information and test results will be kept strictly confidential. Lesbians who have received semen from gay, bisexual and/or heterosexual donors will be interviewed about their insemination history, health history and sexual practices.

They will also have their blood tested for exposure to the AIDS virus. Participants can learn the results of their AIDS antibody test if they wish.

The study is funded by the University of California Universitywide Task Force on AIDS.

To participate in the study, or for more information, contact the Lesbian Insemination Project. In the Bay Area call (415) 863-3819, outside the Bay Area call toll-free (800) 852-1818 (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). •



Charles Gilman, left, with author Joseph Hansen.
(Photo: Rink)

Charles Gilman, Of Whitman Bookshop, Dies At 58

Charles Gilman, owner of the popular Walt Whitman Bookshop on Market Street, died Jan. 1 after a three-month long illness caused by a non-AIDS related brain tumor. He was 58 years of age.

Born and raised in Colorado, Gilman earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Denver and a master's degree from San Francisco State. After further graduate study at UC-Berkeley, he taught in the Berkeley public schools. He also taught in Albuquerque and in Spain.

Returning to the Bay Area, he opened a bookshop in Oakland and began a lifelong enthusiasm for collecting rare publications dealing with gay experience. In 1977, he moved his bookshop to San Francisco, eventually locating on Market Street in the Cas-

tro. His bookshop, named for his beloved Walt Whitman, soon became a major cultural institution dealing in gay publications and speakers have regularly appeared in a variety of programs at the shop.

Charles is survived by his mother, Mrs. Fannie LaPlante, his companion Bernard Sinkler, and many longterm friends.

Continuing Charles' memorable "literary salons," the Walt Whitman Bookshop will host a gathering of his friends to which all are invited, at 2319 Market St., on Sunday, Jan. 18th, 4 p.m. •

Deaths

(Continued from page 20)

Richard "Casey" Case

Casey was born in Brooklyn, NY on Jan. 31, 1936. He died in San Francisco on Dec. 28 from injuries received in an accidental fall.

He is survived by relatives in Highland Falls, NY and by his friend of many years, Woody Ellwood of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Many friends, especially of the Gangway, mourn his passing. His remains will be cremated.

Memorial services are pending.

"Go, good fellow! The boatman waits to ferry you to Paradise." •

Mark Alan Mayfield

Mark Alan Mayfield, 34, beloved son of Mary Hockenberry and Ike Mayfield, step-son of Eugene Hockenberry and Wilma Mayfield, most loved brother of Helen Mayfield and Karen Dunsmore, lover of Bill Dupuis, best friend of Mama Peg, Shawn, Rick-Rex, Gary, Gramma Jim, Gabriel, and so many others, left this world and began his journey to the other side on Sunday, Jan. 4.



He left peacefully after a two-month battle from AIDS complications. When Mark was a small child, he was walking with his Mom and saw a rainbow. He looked at her and said, "Mama, a rainbow is God's smile." Throughout his life he continued to share and teach his spiritual philosophy, and all who knew him were richer in spirit and love.

You're over the rainbow, Markie. Thank you for enriching our lives.

There will be a memorial service Thursday, Jan. 8, at MCC, 150 Eureka St., 8-10 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: SF AIDS Foundation. •

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FRIDAY 9

• Tracy Stark: music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4-\$6 sliding scale.

• Judy Fjell: music, Sisterspirit Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, doors open 8 PM, music starts 9 PM, \$5-\$7. With the Unbeatable Hearts.

• Making Heaven in 1987: a look at forthcoming celestial events by astrologist Robert Cole, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7. Bring your chart for a better personal insight. Call 558-8004 for more information.

• PSS of the Bay Area: meeting for gay railfans, Tom Sawyer room of the Mark Twain hotel, 8 PM, \$5. Movies of the Sacramento Northern and SP's Coast Daylight, plus slides of North American passenger trains over the past 25 years. Call 352-0301 for more information.

• Growing American Youth Group: for gays and lesbians 21 or younger, Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord. Call 372-9014 or 827-2960 for more information.

• Yoga Class for PWAs and PWARC: taught by PWA, 4:50-5:30 in the Mission, \$5 if you can afford. Call 863-7212 for more information.

• AIDS Prayer Vigil: Church of the Advent of Christ the King, 261 Fell St., S.F., noon to 3 PM. Call 431-0454 for more information.

• "I Had AIDS Workshop": noon and 7 PM; videos at 9 PM. Call Richard Locke at 558-9650 for more information.

• Vision play: circle of healing and renewal using visualization and deep trance work, Quan Yin Acupuncture Center, 513 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5-\$15 sliding scale. Led by Van Aut, certified hypnotherapist. Call 864-1362 for more information.

• Church of the Secret Gospel: service, 746 Clementina St. No. 2, S.F., 8 PM, \$2. Carnal communion to 10:30 PM, refreshments, males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.

• Spiritmenders: giving and receiving kindred spirits, Spiritmenders Community Center, 2141 Mission St., #203 (between 17th and 18th Sts.), 5-7 PM. For mental health clients, previous or present. Call 552-4910 for details.

• Imperial AIDS Foundation: rap group, Home Federal Savings meeting room, 480 S. Mathilda (corner of Olive and S. Mathilda), Sunnyvale, 7-10 PM. Call 968-8976 or 965-1189 for details.

• Women's Drop-In Space: conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.

• Frank Banks: sing-a-long piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 5:45-8 PM.

• People With AIDS Support Group: meeting. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.

• SF Macrobiotic Network: community dinner, Zen Center Guest House, 273 Page St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$8. Call 647-3347 to make a reservation. Free Iyengar-style Yoga class precedes the dinner at 5 PM.



The GLOE Women's Writing Workshop
Women's Building

SUNDAY 11

• Aldo Bell: Making My Move: music, City Cabaret, 401 Mason St., S.F., 7 PM, \$10. Aldo Bell's final Bay Area appearance.

• Tropical Breeze: music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$3. Brazilian and pop.

• Men's Brunch and Games: for older gay men (60+) and friends, Francis of Assisi Community Center, 145 Guerrero St., S.F., noon to 3 PM. Bring food to share. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call 626-7000 for more information.

• San Francisco Hiking Club: day hike in China Camp State Park. Meet under the big Safeway sign at Market and Dolores, 9:45 AM. Bring lunch and canteen. Rain cancels. 6-7 mile hike.

• High Tech Gays: monthly meeting, Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, women's caucus at 6 PM, potluck at 6:30 PM (bring a dish to share). Guest speaker will be David Bunnell, editor of PC World and Mac World magazines.

• Integrity: Eucharist, St. John's Church, 1661 15th St., S.F., 5:30 PM.

• MCC San Francisco: worship and communion service, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 AM. Call 863-4434 for more information. Childcare provided.

• Louise Hay Class: 1155 Ellis St., S.F., 6 PM. Call 346-2981 for more information.

• Expect a Miracle: wholistic healing and exercise class, Grace Cathedral gym, California St. between Taylor and Jones, S.F., 2-3 PM. Call 788-2480 for more information.

• Church of the Secret Gospel: (see Friday for details).

• St. Mark's Lutheran Church: services, 111 O'Farrell (at Gough), S.F., communion at 8:30 AM and 11 AM. Call 928-7770 for details.

• Diablo Valley MCC: worship celebration, 2253 Concord Blvd., 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for details.

• Affirmation-Gay and Lesbian Mormons: meeting and services. Call 641-4554 for recorded message which details the meetings and socials.

• LeJazz Hot: cabaret, Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 PM, 11 PM, \$2.

• AIDS Self Healing and Support Groups: support group, 2254 Van Ness (btwn. Broadway and Vallejo Sts.), 7:30 PM. Call 567-7126, 339-1134, or 775-0277 for details.

• Slightly Younger Lesbians & Gays: support group, Billy de Frank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 1-3 PM.

• Golden Gate MCC: Sunday worship services, 48 Belcher St. (between 14th St. and Duboce), S.F., 12:30 PM, 7 PM. Call 474-4848 for details.

• Dignity: Sunday Mass, St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate (near Civic Center), 5:30 PM. Call 584-1714 for details.

• Women's Radio Hour: on KKUP (91.5) in San Jose, 11 AM-2 PM. Women's music, interviews, and community calendar.

SATURDAY 10

• After New Year's Gala: sponsored by Bay Area Career Women, Grand Ballroom of the Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan St., S.F., 8 PM, BACW members \$12, non-members \$22. Limited tickets at the door. Call 495-5393 for advance tickets. An event for women.

• GLOE Women's Writing Workshop: evening of drama, poetry, comedy, pathos, and skits, Vida Gallery, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 8 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.

• Monica Grant: comedy and music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4.

• Addie: music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 10 PM to 1 AM, \$3. Rock, blues.

• Leonard Riley: lithographs, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., reception for the artist 1-3 PM.

• Fraternal Order of Gays: game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for more information.

• Girth and Mirth Club: general membership meeting, 3744 16th St., Apt. 3, S.F., 8 PM. Call 680-7612 or 552-1143 for more information.

• East Bay FrontRunners: Alameda Shoreline run. Take 23rd Ave. exit off Hwy 17 to Kennedy St. Turn right onto Park St. Cross Park St. Bridge into Alameda and continue to the end. Meet at the intersection of Park St. and Shoreline Dr., 9:30 AM. Flat 3-5 mile loop. Call 526-7592 or 261-3246 for more information.

• Kinship: support group for lesbian and gay Seventh-day Adventists Christmas dinner. Call 661-9912 or (408) 866-0159 TDD for more information.

• San Francisco FrontRunners: Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 673-7303 for more information.

• San Francisco FrontRunners: Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 673-7303 for more information.

WEEK



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WEDNESDAY 14

- **Lesbian/Gay Open Poetry Reading:** Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM. First-time or experienced readers welcome.
- **Federal Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, Rooney's, 22 9th St., S.F., 6 PM, \$2. No-host cocktails, free buffet. Bring a magazine for people with AIDS. Vincent Schiraldi of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives will speak. Call 695-9174 for more information.
- **Wednesday Matinee With GLOE:** sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders and North of Market Senior Services, this weekly program will offer movies, games, and refreshments for gay men and lesbians over 60 at 333 Turk St., S.F., 2:15-4:30 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **Making Friends with Anger:** registration deadline for seven-week series. Call Scott Eaton, MA, at 821-4788 for more information.
- **Basic Income Tax Information:** first session of six-week class taught by Jan Zobel, EA, 450 Church St., S.F., 6:30-9 PM, free. Sponsored by the SF Community College Centers. Call 647-4884 or 558-9987 for more information.
- **Relationships - The Greatest Gift:** workshop, 8-9 PM. Call Adrian Bruce Tiller, M.S., at 861-2385 for location and free brochure. Introducing a new men's group on self-esteem and relationships.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay: People with AIDS/ARC Support Group,** Fairmont Hospital, San Leandro, 3-5 PM. Call 420-8181 for details.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** Bible Study and Prayer & Praise Worship, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord. Bible Study at 7 PM, Prayer & Praise Worship at 8:15 PM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **Cabaret Open Mike:** Belden 22, 22 Belden Pl., S.F., 5:30-8 PM. Hosted by Aldo Bell with John Townbridge at the piano. Call 398-4877 for details.
- **Womanspirit:** MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka, S.F., 7:30 PM.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).
- **Friends, Family, and Lovers of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.

MONDAY 12

- **Holy Trinity Church:** meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 10 AM to noon.
- **Eastern Orthodox:** Holy Ascension Mission, liturgy at 10 AM, 1671 Golden Gate #2, S.F. Call 563-8514 for more information.

TUESDAY 13

- **Preventative Dentistry:** education forum for seniors, 1853 Market St., S.F., 1-2:30 PM. Free dental screening offered. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **High Tech Gays:** Political and Business Action Committee meeting, 1984 The Alameda, Suite 3, San Jose, 7:30 PM.
- **People of Color:** support group, 513 Valencia St., 6-8 PM, free. Educational support group for minorities experiencing anxiety about their health, sex, and AIDS. Sponsored by the AIDS Health Project. Facilitated by Julius Johnson, PhD. Childcare available with 24-hour notice. Call 681-7887 for more information.
- **AIDS Interfaith Network:** support group, Parsonage, 555-A Castro St., S.F., 7 PM, free. Call 864-7462 for more information.
- **Healing Institute:** meeting/workshop, MCC San Francisco, room 21, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30-10 PM. Call 861-0702 for more information.
- **ISA Men's Group:** SF Men's Tuesday Night Incest Survivors Anonymous 12-step program. SF Home Health Services, 225 30th St., room 206, S.F., 7:30-9 PM. Closed meeting for survivors and pro-survivors. Non-smoking, wheelchair accessible, free parking. Call 474-2872 for more information.
- **Pacific Center AIDS Project:** People with AIDS/ARC Support Group and Lovers, Friends and Family of People with AIDS/ARC, 6-8 PM. Call 420-8181 for details.
- **BurLEZK:** erotic dance show for women, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$5.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).
- **Health Celebration:** learn to achieve and maintain perfect health. Call 558-8454 for more information.

THURSDAY 15

- **Artists For Community Life:** monthly meeting, 7:30 PM. Call 652-4526 for more information.
- **AIDS Interfaith Network of Contra Costa County:** meets at Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 7:30 PM. Call 827-2960 for more information.
- **Men's Support Group:** Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7 PM. Call 283-AGAY for more information.
- **Bi Men's Support Group:** for bisexual men and married gay men. Meets 6:30-8:30 PM in Noe Valley. Call 821-4788 for more information.
- **Center for Attitudinal Healing:** AIDS/ARC support group, 19 Main St., Tiburon, 4-6 PM, free. Direct access via ferry. Call 435-5022 for more information.
- **Secret Gospel Church:** meeting, 2 PM, 746 Clementina No. 2, S.F., 2 PM. Refreshments and rap to 4 PM, \$2. Males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.
- **Antibody Positive Drop-In Group:** 1853 Market St. (at Guerrero), 6 PM. This weekly group is to assist individuals in exploring concerns around positive test results while supporting development of coping skills. Cosponsored by UCSF AIDS Health Project and Operation Concern. Call 626-6637 for details.
- **AIDS/ARC Self-Healing and Support Group:** weekly meeting, Campus Ministry Building, USF, Golden Gate Ave. (near Parker), 7 PM, free. Call 567-7126 or 339-1134.
- **Coming Home Hospice Bingo:** Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$10 minimum buy-in. Come on over and join the fun... even if you've never played bingo before. An alcohol-free space. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages sold. Smoking and non-smoking areas. Early Bird specials. Door prizes and cash prizes for each game.
- **Men's Support Group:** meeting, Billy De Frank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 7 PM.
- **Coping With the Loss of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.
- **Friends, Family, and Lovers of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).
- **Stress Reduction Workshop:** call 558-8454 for more information.

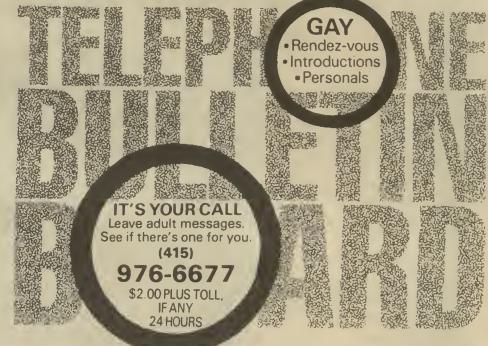
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BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

Frances Fitzgerald: An Ode To Our City On A Hill

by David Lamble

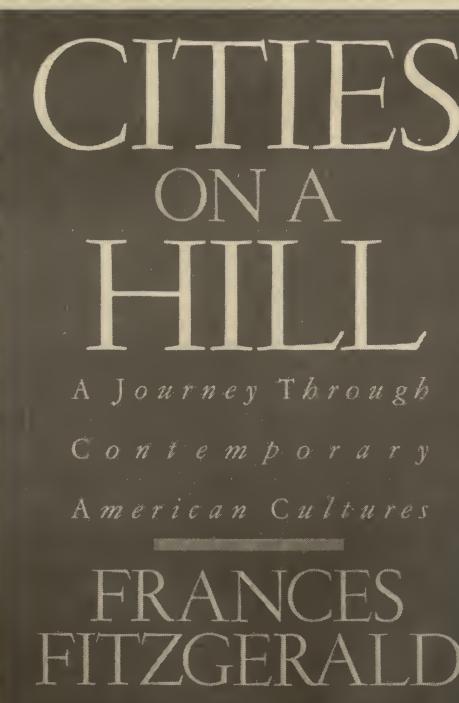
In the opening pages of *Cities On A Hill*, Frances Fitzgerald paints a splendidly colorful picture of the 1978 Lesbian/Gay Parade climaxing with the image of "a man in a Batman cape and a sequined jockstrap roller-skating by. He had the torso of a dancer, and he moved with liquid, dreamlike movements, crossing and recrossing the street." The Pulitzer Prize winning author confesses that mention of the spangle-adorned jockstrap in her chapter on San Francisco's gay Castro Village did raise a pair of eyebrows in the editorial offices of *The New Yorker* magazine where the article first appeared.

"*The New Yorker* is known for a certain prudishness, it doesn't like to address subjects that circle around sex at all! The editor, Mr. (William) Shawn, who's an extraordinary, marvelous man, tends to make marginal notes on the galleys as they're coming through. He made very few notes on this piece, but one of them had to do with this sequined jockstrap that I described. He said, 'Couldn't we say athletic supporter?' The younger editor I was dealing with wrote back, 'No, Mr. Shawn, No!'"

Cities On A Hill, subtitled: A Journey Through Contemporary American Cultures, is, at first glance, one of the most insanely eclectic books the reader is likely to come across, traversing as it does the dizzying climb to Castro Street, the swift descent to Jerry Falwell's Liberty Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia (a town whose Revolutionary War military court used to sentence Tories to be hung by their thumbs—thus the word "lynching") a rest stop at the Sun City, Florida senior retirement community, and ending up at the failed new-age Oregon settlement of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. As one sinks in the good read *Cities On A Hill* provides, one senses the odd relationships that started Fitzgerald off on the scent of the book in the first place.

"I happened upon the Castro and I sort of happened upon Jerry Falwell's church as well and I began thinking, 'Boy, if communities as different as this can exist within the white middle class of the United States, it means that we are a people that are quite different from our textbook version of ourselves ... Then I began to notice that there were some real internal similarities as well!'"

Fitzgerald was struck by something told her by San Francisco gay publicist Ken Maley. "He comes from fundamentalist parents and one time he confided in me that "Coming Out" was really very much like the experience of being "Born Again" in a fundamentalist church. It means a kind of liberation, both of them do, a liberation and transformation. Then I began to see that the other groups as well had, while being entirely different, some kind of evangelical spirit about them. Really what connected them all, because I



saw them simply as kind of cultural enclaves at first, was the notion that you can start all over again, to leave your past behind and just begin again as an adult. All these were kind of visionary communities that were creating some ideal society."

Visionary communities, yes, but communities whose respective visions were invisible to each other. Fitzgerald captures an image of the almost range war that developed between the followers of the Bhagwan and a band of fundamentalist Christians in rural Oregon.

"When I went there in '83, they were building this huge town, they were farming in the most exquisite sort of methods—the thing had no hippie aspect about it at all. They had a big electrical power substation. I thought, gee whiz, these people might really be on to something, they might become something like the Mormons, they've got all the talent to do it, they're full of doctors and lawyers, and then the strangeness began to set in."

Strangeness indeed, as Fitzgerald soon found herself departing from the fabled *New Yorker* prose style and employing words like "craziness" and "nuts" to chronicle her reactions to the self destruction of the Rajneesh bid to colonize a huge tract of rural Oregon. "One thing they did to a couple of guys who came there to look at their land permits. One of them was Jewish and they (the Rajneesh) started attacking him with anti-Semitic remarks, harassing them. They then tried to explain this to me. One has to use a word for that kind of thing, I think."

Frances Fitzgerald feels that her *Cities On A Hill* book turned out to be a kind of Rorschach test for her readers who have praised or damned her depending on their feelings about the particular visionary community described. The core of the book

for lesbian and gay readers is, of course, the first two chapters, outlining and in ways comparing the very different visions behind contemporary Castro Street and the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, home turf of the Reverend Jerry Falwell. Fitzgerald noted that as they developed the Castro and Lynchburg communities began to take a very different stance towards the outside world from their 19th century utopian counterparts.

"In the 1840s a number of the religious movements—the Mormons, the Oneida Community—were separatists in the tradition of the Puritans. That is, they cut their ties with the society and went about building their own world in isolation, allowing others to do as they would. The new movements were not 'separatist' in this sense—or they did not remain separatist for very long. Either they were social change movements, or they were world-rejecting movements which, while they had no intention of changing society, ended up by trying to conquer it. Gay liberation, for example, was by its nature a social change movement. The gay community in the Castro, however, began by seeing itself as a separatist group—the Castro was a 'ghetto' or a bastion against the world—but then grew to imagine it would take over all of San Francisco. As for Falwell, he transformed his constituency from a separatist to a social change movement; in the intermediate stages, however, his 'disciplined charging army' had conquest on its mind."

Fitzgerald sees Falwell as a peculiarly American type, a very paradoxical figure, who is bringing the last group of white holdouts from 20th century America into an uneasy acceptance of complicated modern urban life

with all its compromises and contradictions.

"He is, in terms of the fundamentalists, a liberalizer and a modernizer and his community has been following an important evolution towards the world. I mean it started out totally withdrawn, completely despairing of the future, completely separated from the world and he's trying to lead them into it. Now what he's doing is empowering the last group of whites in this country that were unpowered. Maybe the price is too high for some of us, but that's what he's doing."

Fitzgerald notes that for her the most painful part of the book to write was the second part of the Castro story dealing with the gay community's battle with the AIDS epidemic.

"I remember I spent a week trying to write two pages, which simply had to do with the medical questions. I couldn't get through those pages." As for the future of the Castro, Fitzgerald believes that the gay community, unlike the Rajneesh, have sunk institutional roots deep enough into San Francisco soil to weather the AIDS health crisis.

"I hope everyone lives, one can't form a sentence without first thinking of that. I hope there is a cure for AIDS! If there is, then it seems to me that things are going to change again pretty radically. It's not going to go back to the days of gay liberation, that's for sure! It seems to me that it will remain a gay neighborhood; people won't move out, they've made their homes in San Francisco. It's just that the notion of the gay identity won't be quite so important anymore. People's identities are made up of everything, what churches they go to or don't go to, where they work, and all these other spheres of life will prove just as important as the gay identity."



Author Frances Fitzgerald

Well Lit

While the arrival and departure of department store displays bracket the holiday season, it's television shows that officially define it. Mid-December broadcasts of that paean to family and fellow-love, *A Christmas Carol*, were the starting shot, and the networks were off. Holiday Spirit on every channel. Typically, TV woke it up, worked it — and shot it down.

I do mean *At Mother's Request*, the twisted and true tale of screwed-up family ties in which greed, lovelessness, and murder destroy three generations of a family. December's pretty picture — Scrooge embracing his family — is fine for Christmas, it seems, but is old news in TV-land the weekend after New Year's. The holidays are over. Stow that warm glow. It's business as usual.

I'm no mogul — this column is my only power base — but I suggest we resist the television magnates. How long can we delay before we put down our arms to take up arms? I'm going to work that holiday residue as far into 1987 as I can.

Foremost in prolonging my celebrations will be the oh-so-overdue San Francisco reappearance of Barbara Cook. Her one-woman Broadway show (with Nicholas, Glover and Wray as back-up) was postponed when Big Babs signed into creating Piper Laurie's Mother role in a musical of *Carrie*. (That's one movie make-over that's gonna differ from its source. Most of it takes place in a bathtub and a closet. And who will play the pigs? I can envision "The Dance at the Gym," but will Barbara sing her big number while stuck to the wall by a spatula?) Before that unlikely show goes into rehearsal, Miss Cook and her musician-whiz partner, Wally Harper, have sandwiched in four concerts at the Marines Memorial Theatre. It's a divinely small house to hear them in; Jan. 22-24; 771-6900.

Although Aldo Bell may have the right profile, he won't be starring in "The Barbara Cook Story." But as the latter big diva is coming to town, the former is preparing to leave. Aldo's decided they need another country singer in Nashville (I'm not making this up), and he's the one. So our best Bessie Smith and cabaret high-camper is giving a Farewell Performance Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. at City Cabaret; 441-RSVP. Bye bye Bell!

A holiday vacation gave me time to get back to cabaret myself, and I found out about City Cabaret's Talent Nights. You've just missed one of the bi-weekly events. The next is Jan. 20. Anyone can perform — they've even had a winning poet! Performers sign in at 7:30 p.m., and the show's at 8. When the dust settles, producers Joseph Taro and Paul Gilger select three finalists, and the ultimate winner of \$50 is chosen by the audience. Singers get one song, comics 10 minutes. Other categories wing it. Why don't you? Accompanist provided.

Correction

The photo exhibit by Jim Wigler mentioned in John Karr's column in the last issue of the Bay Area Reporter includes people with both AIDS and ARC, not just people with AIDS.

It's with regret that I report an unenjoyable evening spent with singer/songwriter Pilar, who's performing at City Cabaret every Wednesday and Saturday night. Over the years Pilar has had several incarnations. I've seen her as Continental singer, Joplin-style rhythm and blues belter, and now — Yuppie Songstress. She's periodically left the business for soul-searching, and these intervals, coupled with her stylistic indecision, have made it hard for her to maintain her following. She's started over several times. As if that's not hard enough, she's made it harder on herself by bringing her introspective years to the stage.

Pilar is a beautiful woman with a wonderful voice, wide ranging and capable of numerous colorings and unusual effects. Her performances in the past have been high voltage. Now, however, her overly long set is self-indulgent and shapeless. Accompanist Nicholas Milo is a talented

man whose several solos took flight, but the soft focus of his electric piano doesn't provide an edge to the murky pools of Pilar's songs. They blur together in a haze of New Age lyrics about personal transformation, the realization that Nature is within, and that Time is a Circle. To prove her sincerity and commitment to these thin philosophings, Pilar overacts and crawls about, the Cobra Woman on Geary Street. Her physical and vocal beauty, even her fancy flights of scatting, can't save this program.

Pilar's been in the business long enough to know better. If she'd skip the self-indulgence, get herself a director and program some songs, she could be the hottest singer in town. At the moment, she's trading heat for a warm bath.

★ ★ ★

(Continued on page 44)



Songstress Barbara Cook

This bottle could save your life.



Bleach kills the AIDS virus that gets in used needles. Cleaning needles with bleach will help

protect you from getting AIDS, and it will not damage the needle. Make sure you don't shoot or drink the bleach.



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Desperately Seeking Substance

January is the perfect time to take stock of one's growth and achievements during the past year while setting new goals for the future. In 1986, I took 90 flights in order to attend 146 performances in 21 cities ranging from Anchorage to London; from San Francisco to San Juan. In addition to interviewing opera singers, general directors, and porno stars, my research included such diverse activities as visiting the world's first pencil factory, gawking at some new audio-animatronic dinosaurs on display at Houston's Natural History Museum, and watching a bunch of Puerto Rican drag queens lip-synching in Spanish. Although my travels kept me on the road for 135 days, I still managed to publish nearly 150 articles in such a way that my by-line appeared on four continents. No matter how I look at 1986, one fact becomes obvious: life certainly hasn't been dull.

While some people wonder if all these achievements haven't been accomplished through black magic — as opposed to simple workaholism — I should stress that it's not all done with mirrors. I owe a huge debt to my computer, a compulsive zeal for organization, and the support I receive from a large and very loyal circle of friends. Nevertheless, like Blanche DuBois, I've also learned how to depend on the kindness of strangers — especially those who are employed in the travel industry.

One of my fantasies for 1987 is to attend two different productions of Wagner's *Der Ring Des Nibelungen* back to back. This would involve traveling first to Seattle in mid-August and then to Aarhus, where the Danish National Opera will present the first production of the Ring to be seen in Denmark since 1912. For culture vultures thinking of traveling to Europe this summer, there will be three Ring cycles presented at

Aarhus (Aug. 18-23, 25-30 and Sept. 1-6). For information about the Seattle Opera's Ring, call (800) 426-1619. To receive a brochure on the Aarhus Ring, call the SAS tour desk at (800) 221-2350.

Since all's fair in love, war, and public relations, I should also mention that my most recent visits to our nation's capital were made infinitely more pleasurable by the plush lodgings I enjoyed at the Grand and Bristol Hotels, two luxury facilities targeted to the upscale business trade. Located at 2350 M St. N.W., the Grand's huge, pink marble bathrooms — which come stocked with loofah sponges, Perrier, and Evian water — eased the tension of watching election night returns while the three-hour time difference between San Francisco and Washington made it impossible to get any news on the fate of Proposition 64.

Similarly, my handsome two-room suite at the Bristol took the edge off being a captive audience to Shelley Winters and Hulk Hogan in the wee hours of the morning. Both of these hotels are within easy walking distance of the Kennedy Center and I can heartily recommend them for future use.

While it's all very well to lounge around in expensive hotel rooms, one must never forget that a hotel is not a home. And, because two recent performances of contemporary works left me spinning my head in paroxysms of cynical disbelief, one must similarly keep in mind that a massive collection of black dots on white paper does not necessarily represent an opera worth listening to.

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Before questioning this particular project's artistic merit, I think it's important to note that the million-dollar world premiere of Gian-Carlo Menotti's *Goya* ac-

complished a great deal for the Washington Opera in terms of visibility and public relations. Carefully coordinated exhibitions of Goya's paintings by several of Washington's major museums formed an integral part of a cultural exchange program with Spain. In addition to securing the Washington Opera its first telecast, the anticipation of *Goya*'s world premiere sold more than 4,000 extra season subscriptions. In short, the preparations for the event were a marketing person's dream come true.

Although there were big risks involved with this project — Menotti is not famous for meeting deadlines and, in order to "keep his options open," Plácido Domingo now refuses to sign contracts with opera companies until two weeks before the opening night of any production — the presence of a superstar tenor in the title role made tickets for *Goya* as hot an item as Admiral John Poindexter's recipes for misplaced documents and shredded wheat. Unfortunately, on opening night, it became painfully evident that *Goya* was the kind of artistic lemon which could make Menotti's *La Loca* sound like Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

The opera's libretto — supremely embarrassing in its own right — became absolutely appalling when heard through Domingo's thickly accented English. And, while the score contained some beautiful high notes for Domingo — the tenor was in superb voice when heard live at Kennedy Center Nov. 28 — there was much less to *Goya* than met the ear. With her voice in tatters, mezzo-soprano Victoria Vergara could only vamp her way through the evening as the Duchess of Alba. Although, as her archrival Queen Maria Luisa, Karen Huffstodt had a few moments of genuine operatic strength, this was white bread opera at its worst.



Is this famous artist named Goya going deaf or is it really tenor Plácido Domingo trying to block out Gian-Carlo Menotti's music?

While the verdict against *Goya* was pretty unanimous, the saddest part of attending this holiday turkey was the realization that, even in its best moments, *Goya* is little more than a musical mishmash hopelessly seeking to find a way in which to justify its own creation. In a pre-production interview, Gian-Carlo Menotti (the opera's famous composer, librettist, and stage director) confessed that, while working on *Goya*, he discovered he might not really have anything left to say.

"*Goya* has definitely made me look at my own self and question my own purposes as an artist. One cannot be a charming man and also be a wonderful artist,"

confided the 75-year-old impresario. "But I love to be charming, and that's why I will never be a great composer." Self knowledge can be a wonderful thing.

BAH, HUMBUG!

If *Goya* felt like a well-heeled and rather futile attempt at musical masturbation, the performance of Thea Musgrave's *A Christmas Carol* I attended in Norfolk, Virginia was not much better. Over the years I've held the distinctly minority opinion that Musgrave does not "give good opera" and, if her writing for *Mary, Queen of Scots* struck me as a mediocre orchestral score saddled with painfully dull vocal

(Continued on page 44)

Philip Campbell

Mid Season Clearance

For weeks every critic in the country has been scrambling for a year-end ten best list. Thankfully, that's not my problem. The San Francisco Symphony is only half done with its current season, so generalizations would certainly be premature. Rather, it's time for me to clean up the last bits of wrapping from the holiday concert schedule and sigh with relief at returning to business as usual and getting back to a musical diet less saturated with fat.

Curiously enough, the one major disappointment this Christmas was with the Symphony's annual *Messiah*. What should have been a crowning glory amid the candlelight concerts and organ recitals was nothing more than an earnest run-through.

Davies Hall looked suitably bright and glamorous with cleverly decorated trees cheering the lobby spaces and lighted garlands festooning the stage. Conductor Nicholas McGegan simply couldn't match the beauty of the surroundings. His misconceived idea to render a performance acceptable to authentic music purists and the more operatically inclined traditionalists backfired, leaving no one com-

pletely satisfied.

Vance George's stalwart Symphony Chorus emerged relatively unscathed, but while their singing was admirable it was diminished by the decision to place them behind the chamber-size orchestra on the stage floor. The soloists were a variable crew mirroring McGegan's schizoid approach.

Bass David Thomas was thrilling and countertenor Derek Lee Ragin (more accurately an alto) maneuvered his way with a pure and heartfelt performance, though he couldn't stop certain dolts from tittering. I suppose it is a jolt to hear such high and ethereal tone emerging from a young strapping man, but I gladly could have throttled many audience members.

Tenor Grayson Hirst appeared to have wandered in from a provincial company of *Il Trovatore*. His hammy "acting" and awful ornamentation made me cringe every time he rose to sing. Soprano Julianne Baird seemed unsure and just off the note at times, but her clear tone and lovely presence compensated. When many of the near-capacity crowd fled after the Hallelujah chorus,

I steamed at their insensitivity but secretly longed to join them.

Meanwhile, over at the Opera House, another seasonal chestnut was being roasted with fantastical results. Tchaikovsky's wonderful *Nutcracker* received a new production that dwarfed the strangely pedestrian dancing with lavish sets and costumes and a performance from the pit that was itself worth the price of admission.

Veteran ballet conductor Denis de Coteau led the beautifully blended ensemble with a precision that made the smaller moments delightfully crisp and the big romantic pages all the more sumptuous.

The New and Unusual Music Series repeated its burgeoning practice of presenting a contemporary Christmas, this year in St. Ignatius Church. Other commitments kept me away, but the memory of 1985 at Grace Cathedral sustains my belief in this excellent endeavor.

I never was one to lose myself in the party-hearty atmosphere of New Year's Eve, that is until the Symphony changed my attitude with their enormously civilized Night in Old Vienna. The melan-

choly and overheated hysteria of other year-end galas are light years away from the well-judged nostalgia and cheer of these evenings spent wallowing in the melodies of Strauss, Lanner, and Lehár.

Making his second appearance, which I hope will become a tradition as well, conductor Kurt Woss brought all his considerable old-world charm to bear on a string of delicious waltzes and polkas, all served in thoroughly idiomatic Viennese style. His choice of tempo might seem a bit beat conscious to those accustomed to the dazzling fleetness of von Karajan, but the results are truly geared for real dancing and that's what the waltz is ultimately meant for.

Herr Woss alternately cavored and caressed, grabbing a fiddle at one point and joining in with the gorgeous playing all around him. Soprano Roberta Peters became the cherry perched atop the delicious whipped cream of the music making.

At 56, still looking fabulous and sounding fine, Peters has enjoyed a long and remarkable career. She moves with the poise and artless elegance of one long accustomed to the spotlight. Re-

splendent in icy-blue velvet with silver fox trim, she easily traversed two difficult numbers from *Die Fledermaus*. The voice lacks the old power and range, but it is still eminently musical and I was surprised at the tepid response. How quickly they forgot!

After intermission the well-heeled crowd, watered with abundant free champagne, welcomed Peters' second entrance in fire-red chiffon and marabou more enthusiastically. Her Lehár selections were well done, but the encore from *The Merry Widow*, complete with audience hum along, garnered the bravas she deserved from the start. Roberta Peters is an old pro and Kurt Woss an even older one. Together they were enchanting.

Stuffed with sweets and crudites served after the show in the lobby, we strolled back into the auditorium before midnight to catch the countdown revelry. The obligatory balloon drop and Auld Lange Syne, accompanied by tooting noisemakers, made a happy salute and heralded the return of Herbert Blomstedt to the podium in January and a continuing season of great music. ●

A Mixed Grab Bag

by David-Alex Nahmod

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Soundtrack Geffen Records

Little Shop of Horrors has a long and successful history. Initially a hit low-budget horror film in 1959—which has since become a camp/cult classic—it has been adapted into a hit off-Broadway musical. Now the musical is a movie.

This soundtrack album is a fun and campy upper. It features singing sensations like Steve Martin and Rick Moranis, the latter of whom outdoes his super-nerd character from *Ghostbusters* by belting out ditties like "The Meek Shall Inherit." Steve Martin is a scream as the world's most sadistic dentist.

The original movie was made in the '50s, and so the musical is set in that "decade not all that long before our own." Three newcomers, Michelle Weeks, Tichina Arnold, and Tisha Campbell, are on hand to emulate the sounds of the "girl groups" that were so popular then, only these women have powerful voices few singers from that era could match. Hearing them belt out do-wop arrangements in their gospel voices is very, very funny.

Little Shop of Horrors is the most fun I've had listening to a record in quite some time.

MODERN GIRLS Soundtrack Warner Bros.

Here's an album no one got for Christmas—*Modern Girls*, the remarkable soundtrack to an unsuccessful film. It's got cuts by popular dance music performers, but the music is totally forgettable. One number, titled "How Many Loves," is produced by someone called Jellybean. That should tell you the age-group this album is intended for.

Toni Basil, who had a disco hit called "Mickey" a few years ago, is now singing "Girls Night Out." Unfortunately, her voice has little power or range, which she tries to compensate for by incorporating lots of echo effects into the song. It doesn't work. Likewise, Depeche Mode's "But Not Tonight" is a bore. It's outdated disco that will probably go over well in dance clubs, but as for something to listen to...

"Some Candy Talking" by Jesus and Mary Chain is the only cut on the album that works. It's an early '60s-style rock ballad



Rick Moranis has a heart-to-heart with his co-star in *Little Shop of Horrors*

that seems out of place in the midst of all this disco. It sounds good, but it is not worth the cost of this album.

TOO COOL FOR YULE Faultline

A bit belated for the holidays is this hilarious release from Faultline, the city's gone-but-not-forgotten homegrown comedy troupe.

Too Cool For Yule is not an album, but a 45 single. (Remember them?) It's a Christmas rap for our times, all about a nasty old Santa refusing to give toys to spoiled brats, and a frustrated Jesus reminding everyone his birthday is not in December. You can dance and laugh at the same time to this irreverent comic masterpiece.

The flip-side is a Thanksgiving spoof called "Plymouth Rock."

For information on obtaining the recording (Hurry! Only 350 more shopping days till Christ-

mas!) contact Brian Lohmann at 1594A Hayes, SF 94117, or call 922-9375.

PRESERVES Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Stomp Off Records

This is a strange recording. It covers the 20-year period from 1899-1919, and is essentially the greatest hits of that era. Instrumentals like "Pass the Pickles" or "The Honolulu Rag" bring about images of Chaplin films and/or Popeye cartoons. Songs like "Put On Your Old Grey Bonnet" should be familiar to some, as it was used in a few old movies. Art, it ain't!

If anyone ever decides to throw a gay-'90s costume ball, *Preserves* could be used for the dance floor. It's high camp all the way.

And now a look back at 1986, with my favorite albums of that year. In order of preference:

TROUBLE IN PARADISE Romanovsky & Phillips Fresh Fruit Records

Best album of the year, bar none. R & P offer us a humorous look at our lifestyles in just about every style of music you can think of. Folk, rock, and cha-cha beats are heard in the different songs of the duo's second LP, and it all blends together beautifully. The album's high point comes when they brazenly tell our president not to use his penis for a brain.

SINGING WITH YOU Holly Near & Ronnie Gilbert Redwood Records

A superb collection of songs old and new. Recorded in concert, Holly and Ronnie put a lot of feeling into each other's greatest hits, including a lovely rendition of the Weavers' "Darling Corey."

I'D RATHER BE CUTE Lynn Lavner Bent Records

Lesbian in leather with a fabulous sense of humor sings about dating, growing old, dealing with family, and losing friends to AIDS, all with a dash of Cole Porter wit and style. Unforgettable.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Soundtrack Geffen Records

Yes, it's really that good.

FEELS LIKE HOME Elliot Pilshaw Iceberg Records

Songs of love and life by Holly Near, Noel Coward, and other gay songwriters dominate this moving album. Elliot is a passionate singer you'll feel right at home with.

MUSIC

Ten Reasons Why The Late Show With Joan Rivers Is A Dog

Erf! Erf! Can we talk? Oh, grow up!

by Steve Warren

10. Joan keeps one eye on the clock, one on the TelePrompter, and one on her notes. Thus she has to divide her remaining eye between her guests and the audience, giving both short shrift.

9. Joan is not prepared. Even when the guest is an old friend she betrays minimal familiarity with their work, having the read the name of whatever they're plugging and still often getting it wrong.

8. Joan is too nice. Since her husband's heart trouble a couple of years ago she has traded the phony bitchiness and outreagousness that endeared her to us for a phony sweetness that's no fun at all. Joan Collins and Cher are about the only celebrities she'll still dish.

7. "The Tramp" blows a mean sax, but she's not a comedian and can only laugh and pretend not to be embarrassed when Joan uses her as the butt of recycled Heidi Abramowitz jokes.

6. Joan: a) has no boobs and b) they're sagging. That's not a criticism, but a sample of the self-deprecating humor with which she also manages to deprecate most of the women in the world. Actually she looks super. If her material clicked as often as her dresses and hairstyles, the show might work.

5. Joan is overexposed. When she used to guest-host for Johnny Carson, even when she was hot our enthusiasm would wane by Thursday or Friday. With her current limitations she only

seems fresh if you restrict your viewing to once a month.

4. Mark Hudson. The band sounds okay in the 10-second snatches we hear, but when Joan expects their leader to be Ed McMahon, Doc Severinsen, and Paul Schaefer rolled into one, he can't do it. He wasn't even funny when he had his brothers to help him.

3. There aren't enough queens to go around. We're not talking Royal Family—hats and handbags and counting with hooves jokes—but the guest list. Joan tries to include someone gay-acting if not gay-identified on virtually every show, but how far can she stretch Pee-wee Herman and Charles Nelson Reilly?

2. Out of the closet and into the ghetto. In spite of #3, the only time the word gay is mentioned is in tired jokes about San Francisco or innuendos about Joan's staff. God forbid anyone—even Dr. Ruth—should raise the idea in a serious context!

1. Joan isn't funny. The insatiable demands of television for comedy material are well known, and we've already discussed Joan's specific problems in that area. Unlike Carson, who can be at his funniest when a sketch or a joke goes in the toilet, Joan hasn't learned to do anything but go in after it.

Ratings are respectable and ad sales are good, so *The Late Show with Joan Rivers* is likely to be with us for some time; but the show's highlights so far would fit into a commercial break.

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BOOKS

Secrets in the Attic

A Cast of Killers

by Sidney Kirkpatrick
E.P. Dutton, \$17.95

by Robert Burke

A Cast of Killers is the oddest piece of literature to come off the presses in a long, long time. It has all the ingredients (murder, sex, and greed in Hollywood) to make it worthy of its place on local and national best-seller lists. But in the final reading, A Cast of Killers is like reading a book on the sinking of the *Titanic* by someone who knows everything about luxury liners and nothing about icebergs.

This is even more of a shame when one considers that author Kirkpatrick is working from the primary sources of film director King (*Duel in the Sun*, *The Founainhead*) Vidor, who knew, worked with, and interviewed many of the suspects in the murder of silent film director William Desmond Taylor, who was found shot to death in his Hollywood bungalow Feb. 1, 1922. A Cast of Killers is a regurgitation of Vidor's findings in the case. It's a third-hand tale badly told which purports to solve the murder.

Judging by the contemporary news sources (which exhibited an even darker shade of yellow than usual), the investigation was a media circus that has, given A Cast of Killers, never really ended. The most immediate and enduring concentration was focused on Taylor's alleged liaisons with comedian Mabel Normand, who was allegedly found rummaging through Taylor's desk looking for love letters while the corpse grew cold behind her, and a beautiful ingenue, Mary Miles Minter, who was at the time being hyped as America's next "sweetheart" and who, again allegedly, had left behind certain items of lingerie along with other feminine apparel, these items supposedly belonging to her mother, Charlotte Minter.

Furthermore, Taylor's valet, who had been arrested for soliciting boys in a nearby park and for whom Taylor was to testify on the day of his murder, disappeared. All very juicy and all very distracting. For while the papers, with the help of the Los Angeles

District Attorney's office, made a great deal of the sex and drugs involved, they conveniently drew attention away from who was really being fed to the lions at this circus and, more importantly, who killed William Desmond Taylor. That was and is the real question, but in the hands of contemporary journalists, police officials, and now author Kirkpatrick, it is made to seem irrelevant.

But murder, they say, will out. When King Vidor began his own investigation 40 years later as the possible basis for a comeback film project, he found enough corruption and duplicity to make him lock up his notes and hide them in his basement where they were found, after his death in 1982, by his official biographer, Kirkpatrick. But whether Vidor locked them away for sentimental reasons (as Kirkpatrick contends) or for fear of possible litigation (as some of his associates now say) is a moot point. The fact remains that, with respect to the Taylor murder, Vidor made a singularly unwise choice in naming Kirkpatrick as his biographer.

What Kirkpatrick reveals is, essentially, what everyone knew all along: that there was something too pat about the insolubility of the Taylor murder. However, what really happens in A Cast of Killers is that Kirkpatrick rehashes the obvious while slighting the real discoveries Vidor made in his investigation. For example, that William Taylor was a pseudonym for a man who had led at least two other lives under other names before disappearing for several years and resurfacing in Hollywood as a director. That his relationships with both Mabel Normand and Mary Miles Minter were friendships which were based on a sincere effort to help both of these sad, sorry women. Normand was, despite her now-faltering popular success, a big star with a big drug habit that Taylor was trying to help her kick. Minter, on the other hand, was a beautiful teen-aged actress of extremely limited capabilities whose Pickford-ish looks had been parlayed into a disastrous (for Paramount Studios) million

dollar, multi-picture deal by her rapacious mother, Charlotte. She had, in desperation, turned to Taylor for guidance and advice.

But what both women knew and what Vidor discovered was the fact that Taylor was leading a very active, though very closeted, homosexual life. As a result of this he had been subjected to attempted blackmail on at least one occasion and it was this fact, which is at the center of the case and which Kirkpatrick makes so little of, that allowed the studios to manipulate his image into that of a heterosexual Lothario and relieve themselves, with the full compliance of the police and press, of two problematic (and very expensive) stars: Mabel Normand and Mary Miles Minter.

In short, it was business as usual in an age (not so very different from our own) when the definition of an honest official was someone who, once bought, stayed bought. The identity of Taylor's murderer was officially, though surreptitiously, documented as early as 1932. Kenneth Anger, in *Hollywood Babylon*, went over the entire affair again and insinuated the identity of the killer, suggesting that it had been common, if quiet, knowledge in the film community for years.

All that Kirkpatrick manages in A Cast of Killers is a convoluted presentation of Vidor's notes and a few carefully hedged conclusions. This is really what makes the book a cheat: Kirkpatrick practically ignores the implications of Taylor's homosexuality and is oblivious (which seems almost too incredible to be true in light of Rock Hudson's recent death) of the consequences, the truly murderous consequences of living a life in the closet.

A Cast of Killers might have served very well as a perverse, but nevertheless pointed, morality tale for our troubled times. In Kirkpatrick's hands, unfortunately, it comes to its readers simply turned out as Baby Jane rummaging through a trunk somewhere on Sunset Boulevard.

Castro/Valencia Classes

The Castro/Valencia Center of the San Francisco Community College District begins its Spring 1987 Semester Monday, Jan. 12.

The Centers Division is offering 19 short and long-term classes. City College will offer 30 credit courses. Many of the classes, particularly those offered by the Centers Division, are specifically tailored for gays and lesbians.

The Castro/Valencia classes take place at Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. (between 16th and 17th). All classes begin at 6:30 p.m., meet once a week, and run for two to three hours. The classes are free.

Academic and career counseling is offered to all students at Castro/Valencia; counselors are on hand for appointments several nights a week.

Beginning its seventh year, the Castro/Valencia college program has been a major success. It was

instituted to bring education, retraining, and new skills to the gay and lesbian community, the only one of its kind in the nation. Last spring some 1,600 students attended classes each week.

Electric City

Electric City's first regular broadcast will begin Thursday, Jan. 29. The show will air on cable channel 6, and will include screenings at Maud's and The Village.

The first show will feature men about town John Wetzel and David-Alex Nahmod, talking to interesting and well-known people in the community who often touch our lives. Dr. Farkle will also be on hand to provide her own unique brand of levity.

Electric City will air the final Thursday of each month on cable 6. Check the B.A.R. and local TV listings each month for times.

With a full month to work on each show, Electric City is going to provide the community with quality and informative television.

GLOE Outreach Into The Tenderloin

Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders is expanding its outreach efforts to the heart of the Tenderloin. In conjunction with the North of Market Senior Services, 333 Turk St., GLOE will offer a weekly Wednesday Matinee (2:15-4 p.m.) beginning Wednesday, Jan. 14, to be held at 333 Turk St. Senior gay men and lesbians are welcome to an afternoon of movies, refreshments, and games for free!

The program for Wednesday, Jan. 14, will feature the showing of *Silent Pioneers*, a documentary on the lives of older lesbians and gay men. A raffle will also highlight the day with prizes including lunch at Carlene's of Maui on Polk Street for two and lottery tickets.

Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, a program of Operation Concern, provides services to the estimated 20,000 gay men and lesbians over 60 years of age in S.F.

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SAVAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Steve Warren

The Son-Sheen Boys

Just when I think my critical arteries have hardened permanently, my ever-loving persona astounds me, as when I was able to relax and let the incredible images of George Coates' *Rare Area* (Herbst Theatre through Jan. 24) roll over me. It was also a chance to sample the mellifluous tenor of rising Native American opera singer White Eagle.

But I still expect my movies to tell a story, and it doesn't hurt if they also have one of Martin Sheen's sons around to ogle for a couple of hours, as two current releases do.

STUPIDITY

I have an idea for a movie about a young guy named Emilio Stupidity who cons 20th Century Fox out of \$10-15 million — but who would believe it?

Wisdom is the *Sesame Street* version of *Bonnie and Clyde*, brought to you by the letter To-

futi and the number Hostess junk food. Emilio Estevez wrote and directed, and stars as John Wisdom, a hunky, sulky 23-year-old who's had all the advantages but can't get a job because of a felony conviction for a graduation-night joyride: "You make one mistake and society never lets you forget it."

Hearing about the farm crisis he decides to help by sticking up banks and destroying their loan files. He and Demi Moore go on a nationwide — well, West of the Rockies — spree, and become folk heroes. This naive premise may raise the consciousness of kids too young to listen to Springsteen or Mellencamp (or see R-rated movies like *Wisdom*), but it doesn't suggest any realistic solutions. All it has to recommend it are several shots of Estevez with his shirt off. His direction, incidentally, is okay, but this script should come back when it grows up. (Alexandria, Kabuki, Serramonte)



The Platoon poses for posterity (rear l. to r.) Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenger, and Willem Dafoe (front l. to r.) Francesco Quinn and Kevin Dillon

VIETNAMORALITY

When I was a kid there were movies like *Hud* in which boys my age had to choose between good and bad influences as they grew up. Today's teens get a single, monotonous message: Fuck your brains out but make it through college so you can get rich.

In *Platoon* Charlie Sheen arrives in Vietnam in September 1967 as a replacement for one of the body bags being loaded onto the plane he just left. Learning under fire the things the army omitted from his training, he has enough to do without worrying about moral issues. But there they are just the same. Killing "gooks" in self-defense is no problem, but what about killing women, children, and fellow Americans?

Sgt. Tom Berenger represents the macho-psychotic extreme, a killing machine without compunction. Matt's maligned little brother Kevin Dillon acquires himself well as a Berenger clone whose attitudes were formed on the streets before he got into combat. On the other side are the "heads" led by Sgt. Willem Dafoe. They prefer drugs to booze and dance together when they're high, but still think if you follow your conscience war may just be purgatory.

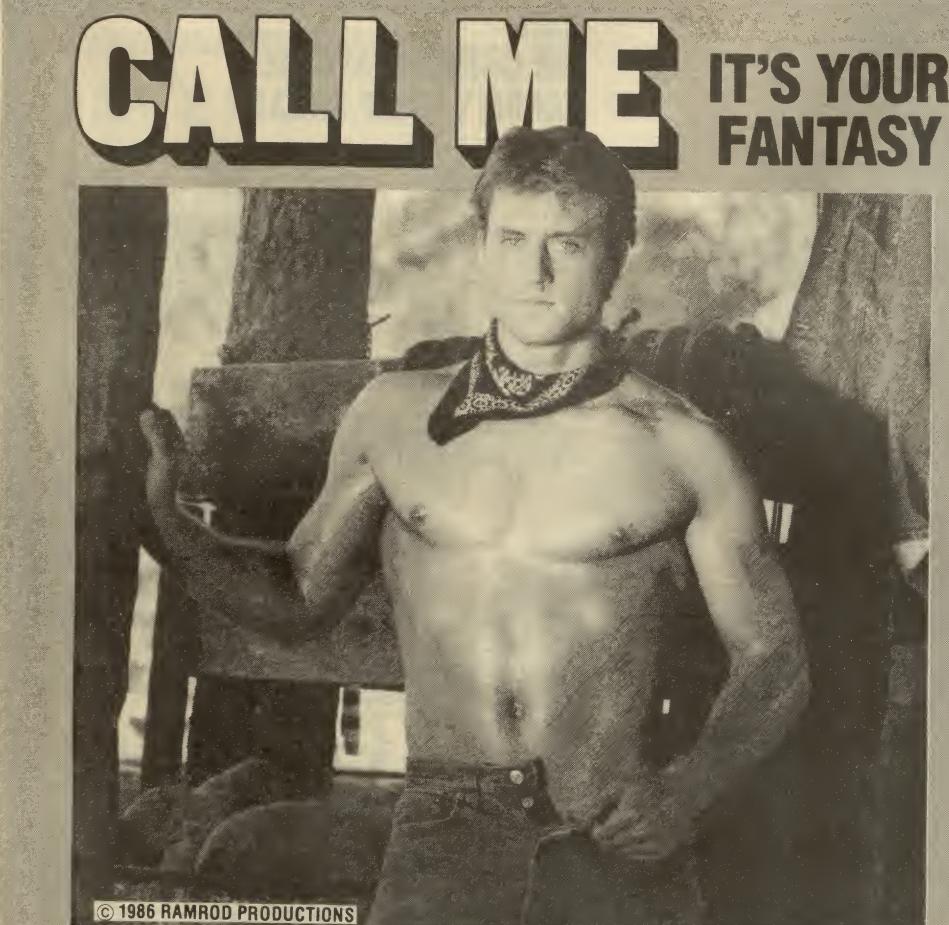
Oliver Stone (*Salvador*) wrote and directed based on his own Vietnam experiences. If his letters to his grandmother were as sappy as Sheen's, which provide the running commentary that's the weakest aspect of the film, it's a wonder he was able to write the rest of this screenplay. Few of his supporting characters are well defined and Stone doesn't give us a clear idea of what's going on in the confusion of battle, but these are conscious choices which work effectively in context.

Less ambitious but more successful than *Apocalypse Now*, *Platoon* gets at more truths about our country by approaching Vietnam from a personal rather than a cosmic perspective. (North-point)

DREAMCAST

As seemingly chaotic as *Platoon*'s combat sequences are the backstage scenes in *Dreamgirls*, live at the Orpheum through Jan. 10. (No film plans yet — see *Sparkle* while you wait.) Less

(Continued on page 38)



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Mr. Marcus

Starting All Over Again

Have you recovered yet from the excesses of the past two weeks? Or in some cases, excesses of the past 52 weeks? Aside from the slaughter of the 49ers at the hands of the NY Giants last Sunday, 1987 got off to a rousing start in all quarters. Thousands gyrated to the music at the Giftcenter Pavilion and at the Troc as well as the Endup and the Rawhide on New Year's Eve. Parties galore, both before the stroke of midnight and the next day, abounded. Some people never got farther than the "pre" parties.

Everybody's favorite leather/biker dude, Greg Shamp, hosted a covey of leather bikers at his loft in the Outer Folsom beginning at 1830 hours. The next day (God only knows how), another mob converged at Hugh Swaney and Red Bentzinger's for a much-needed hangover gathering including one dude who invited himself! The Line-Up and the Galleon were swamped with the smart ones who "greased up" their stomachs before embarking on the sea of bubbles and hawdiness. At the SF-Eagle, the stroke of midnight was heralded by a series of flashes and rockets (don't ask me — I don't know nuthin' 'bout birthin' no fireworks!); at the Giftcenter, Eric Buffer entered in the bronzed Trojan Horse and Gwen Guthrie wowed the sweaty sea with her up-tempo singing. All around the town, it was definitely festive.

The SF-Eagle announced that they had raised a whopping total of \$2,543 in their holiday Lights for Life tree-lighting campaign. Some of the money you all so generously donated will go to buy more than two dozen AM/FM clock radios for AIDS ward patients and the rest will go to the Coming Home Hospice. Your generosity was overwhelming again this year. And hey, we're fast approaching the '90s and I think I'm safe in saying these



Eric Sutter adjusts his sandal backstage at the I-Beam's Trojan Men '86 New Year's Eve party (Photo: R. Pruzan)

'90s will be much gayer than the '90s of the 1700s or 1800s.

★ ★ ★

As we plunge into 1987, some of the things you may want to think about are coming events. Tonight, they'll be picking Mr. May 1988 at the Endup for the Buns Calendar. Voting begins any day now for the 8th Annual Golden Dildeaux Awards taking place at the SF-Eagle Sunday, 25 Jan. Tom

Roller and Ms. Peckerhead will Co-MC the event and the nominations coming in are sure to knock your socks off. I had no idea Wat Abbott was such a, er, oh well, wait 'til the nominations come out.

In February, it's the emperor/empress coronation, the Cable Car Awards, the Motorcycle Awards, and Operation Concern's annual banquet. The AIDS Emergency Fund will give you all

(Continued on next page)



Auld Lang Syne at the Giftcenter

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

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A shower of condoms and balloons greeted the New Year at the Giftcenter
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)
a big surprise too, but my lips are sealed.

This month (24 Jan.), the 1st Ms. Leather of SF will be elected at the High Chaparral and from what I've seen of the contenders, this one should be quite an event! In the race for empress, strong rumors circulating that Dale Evans will make a try for the crown again some 10 years since he ran against Jane Doe! I also hear some newcomers to SF will stage a comedic farce to be entitled "Death of a Salesgirl" and the Annual Spoon Awards for shit-disturbers will be revived due to a "need."

Mouth of Wolf, a new feminist production company, will present "Beyond Detroit" later this year and a fundraiser to finance the production will take place at the Baybrick Sunday, Jan. 11, with a bevy of local entertainers on hand for the sliding scale \$5-\$25 beginning at 1900 hours. They're also having a talent show at the Endup Thursday, Jan. 15, for the Intl. Ms. Leather contest at 2000 hours.

The Cheaters M/C present Convention '86 Sat., 31 Jan., where the bike club president of the year will be elected after the caucuses and demonstrations. The tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. The Cycle Runners M/C will host a beer bust with a Russian Christmas theme at the Transfer Sunday the 11th of Jan. for only \$6.

If you're tired of males impersonating females, you'll get a big charge out of Sandy Van starring as Tallulah, Carol, and Kate Fridays and Saturdays at Theatre Rhino beginning Jan. 23 thru Feb. 14 for only \$7. Ms. Van is one of the outstanding figures in gay comedy this year and will tickle your funnybone with her hilarious renditions. Don't miss this woman!

If none of the above appeals to you, Le Salon just released another blockbuster video entitled *Beach Ballers*. This 90-minute color cassette is from Panther Productions and the tantalizing tan lines will thrust you into a tizzy. This one's in full stereo and the men in it definitely know what they're doing!

RAIDERS OF THE LOST DISH

Big Joe Nucatola (Mr. No. California Drummer) at the SF-Eagle announced his official divorce last Sunday to everyone's surprise. Smirked one bleary-eyed patron upon hearing that news: "Joe should advertise for a new lover in the Toys-R-Us catalog, with his penchant for chick-en!" Sorry, we don't have any reverse R's in our computer, Joe!

They didn't even have to count all the nomination sheets at the SF-Eagle for the Golden Dildeaux Awards: Brian Berger and his squeeze Steve got more than 120 nominations for Best Performance in a Three-Way, followed closely by Billy Barker and

(Continued on next page)



Last-minute adjustments in costume backstage at the I-Beam's Trojan Men '86 New Year's Eve party
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Jim Anderson — this should be a hot race! They oughta try a foursome sometime before the voting, of course! One dude was so irate that he got nominated for Princess Tiny Meat, he whipped his self into a frenzy and popped in the front door showing an 11-inch boner. Stella promptly removed his name from the list. All those guys with "growers" get nominated, don't you know?

Danny "Mitzi" Marsh, after many trials and tribulations, departs today for a six-month cruise around the world and Kenny Morgan of the Pendulum will move into his old digs. I don't know where that leaves David Sarathain, do you?

Scoop: This South of Market community took it hard when the Ambush closed a couple of weeks ago; some of the bartenders moved over to the New World (formerly the Ramrod) already, but not to worry! According to my sources, a meeting was held Monday afternoon, Jan. 5, with the woman who owns the building, and if all goes well the place should re-open within a reasonable negotiating time. The upper two floors will have to be converted to living quarters, however.

And speaking of living quarters, Justin, formerly of the Male Image barber shop, has experienced a dissolution of his marriage to Joe and just moved in with Al Parker down in Southern California! How does that grab you? Can we expect to see Justin in future video productions by Surge Studios? Stay tuned!

And my final scoop of the week: Encouraged by the tremendous success of their first video, *The Cock and Ball Toy Tape*, Mercury Mail Order announced this week the near-completion of their latest: *Dildoe — The Movie*, a comprehensive how-to tape for those who don't know how to use the dildo they've chosen. The film is almost completed and after editing will go on sale through the mail order business. Advance sales have proven there is a market for a video that shows you the proper technique(s) for your latex amusement. Starring Christopher Aables, *Dildoe — The Movie* is sure to achieve the same success as its older brother. Stay tuned, latex lovers.

That's it for this week, boys and girls. 'Til next time, keep your legs crossed (you too, Ms. Susan) and remember: The wise man does at once what the fool does, finally. See you 'round the campus! •

Talk Show Host, Gays Clash In New York

NEW YORK — The battle by gay men and lesbians against radio talk show host Bob Grant continues in the Big Apple.

Grant, whose anti-gay remarks on WABC have infuriated homophiles, appeared as a guest speaker at a Spanish-Portuguese synagogue in early December. When he arrived, he found members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) there ready to give him a little welcome.

Grant once said that "he would like to beat the shit out of" gay men and lesbians who call his show. Eric Perez, 22, and Jean Elizabeth Glass, 20, who had obtained tickets to the synagogue, waited for Grant to refer to the GLAAD picket lines outside and then asked him, "Which of us lesbian and gay youths would you like to beat the shit out of first?"

Grant tried to justify his stand to the audience, saying, "This all goes back to an incident in March, where I was very foolish and did not take these people's feelings into account. That was wrong, but these people aren't forgiving. They can't feel anything but hate."

Perez shouted that Grant's statement was a lie and later demanded that Grant "retract your bigotry on the air."

Then, Perez and Glass left the synagogue and went outside to pass out anti-Grant leaflets.

—The New York Native



Baldwin Graphics

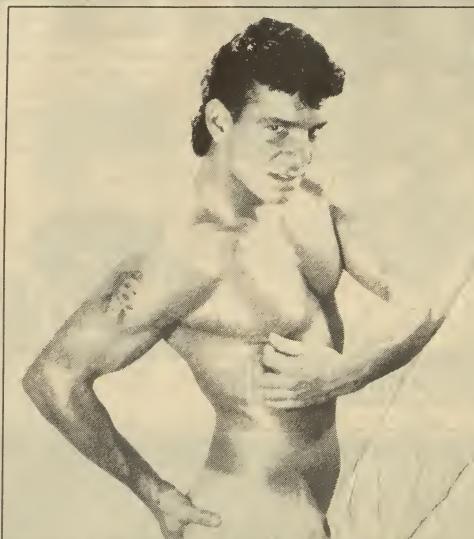


What do Trojan Men wear under their loincloths? Inquiring celebrants wanted to know
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

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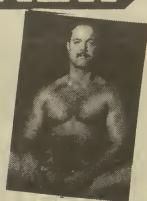
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I'm Looking Forward to Seeing You

DICK WALTERS

This is to let you all know that our favorite bar in Portland, The Embers/Avenue, has re-opened with a lot of favorable changes but sorry to say Lucy is no longer working there. Lucy is getting out of the bar business and is going to be a traveling salesperson for a drug company; no, not dope. We wish you luck on the newly remodeled Embers/Avenue, Steve.

Do you remember Vi of Vi's Club Drake in Fairfax? I had a Christmas card from her and she is doing just fine and wants to be remembered to all of her friends here.

The auction for Dick Petroff at Gilmore's Sunday raised more than \$7,000 and I think the staff should be complimented for doing a great job, and also the people who were there to support this man.

Ms. Kunish of Ginger's, what happened to the Bears, dear?

Happy 40th birthday to Lou, King of Watersports, on Tuesday. Many more!

Quote from Rodney of the Deja Vu on Taylor Street: "I work for a mutant but I love it."

The Gate at Pine and Jones sold White Castle hamburgers and raised more than \$600 for Shanti in memory of Arthur Conrad. Nice going, guys, and thanks to the four people who purchased them so they could be sold here.

Yes, Kevin Kennedy is still at the Wooden Horse Friday through Sunday nights, so drop in and have a drink with this personable guy; right, Greta Grass?

The Polk Gulch sales of God-father Teddy Bears through the holidays enabled the fund to supply Teddies to the AIDS patients at General, Presbyterian,

and Gardenside hospitals. The Gulch staff has raised to date more than \$1,000 for the God-father Fund. Nice going, Flame and Jesse and the gang at the Polk Gulch.

Don't miss Peggy Lee who will be at the Marines Memorial Theatre for 11 performances, and I would like to thank Chester and Jay Noonan for getting tickets for us for the opening performance this evening.

Have you eaten at the Grub-stake on Pine Street next door to Kim's lately? If not do, as they serve a great breakfast and an excellent choice of hamburgers.

Hope you all haven't broken your New Year's resolutions already — or have you, C.T.?

Don't forget the very popular Cable Car Awards are coming up shortly and it is one event not to be missed, so I'll be looking forward to seeing you all there. •

AIDS Emergency Fund Castro Outreach

Members and supporters of the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund stopped by the Elephant Walk to announce a new fundraising drive in the Castro.

The fundraising drive began on Christmas Day at the Elephant Walk where \$1,500 was raised from all the proceeds from sales at the bar, tips from the staff, and a private party held before the benefit.

The AIDS Emergency Fund will be doing outreach in the Castro to encourage support for other events in neighborhood bars, restaurants, and other businesses. To get information about the AIDS Emergency Fund contact George Burgess, public relations director, at 441-6407. •



David Custard from the Mayor's office (l.), Michael Al Glass, and Tom Wesner from the Elephant Walk, George Burgess, and Hank Cook, president of the AIDS Emergency Fund, gather to reap the proceeds (Photo: J. Blackburn)

REED HOLLOWAY

Questionable At Best



A new year is time for new perspectives. Let us consider the 10 most important questions facing the lesbian and gay community in 1987:

1. Should the Castro join the Common Market?

No. It already belongs to the International Meat Market and that is sufficient.

2. How can we guard against disinformation?

Be wary of all information coming from the CIA, the State Department, and lovers who cannot explain where they were all night.

3. Should Berkeley be allowed to secede from the Union?

Yes. As long as the City Council is not permitted to issue exit visas.

4. What can be done about the nation's unbalanced budget?

Simply apply the practice to Cala and Macy's. Spend ten times what you have and let Congress worry about making up the differences.

5. Should Folsom Street be designated a Nuclear Free Zone?

Possibly. Anything that is declared free on Folsom deserves our serious consideration.

6. What should be our approach to Wall Street's insider trading?

Forget it. Since lovers and roommates are our commodity, we should maintain the ones we have and not dump them wholesale on the floor of the National Trick Exchange.

7. How about government deregulation?

Absolutely. It is the only possible answer to the Supreme Court's anti-sodomy decision.

8. What can we learn from the merger mania and takeover battles of corporate America?

Regarding the men's and women's communities, it must be merger yes and takeover no. Separatism has to go. The Closet Ball, for instance, needs women contestants.

9. How about the foreign trade deficit?

At least for the rest of the year we must give preference to our American boys.

10. What if beings from outer space were to land on Polk Street?

Not to worry. They've been there for years. •

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Warren

(Continued from page 32)

proves to be more in this stripped-down version of the show, which works ever so much better without the twin distractions of Jennifer Holliday and a high-tech monstrosity of a set.

Now they should assemble an all-star cast to commit the full score to a two-record set, a la *Follies*. How about Aretha or Tina as Effie, Diana as Deena, Whitney as Lorrell, Lionel as Curtis, Michael Jackson as C.C., and James Brown as Jimmy Early? They can make an AIDS benefit out of it to salve egos.

DAS AIDS

Rosa von Praunheim, Germany's leading gay underground filmmaker, satirizes the AIDS crisis in *A Virus Respects No Morals*, which shows Saturday night at the Pacific Film Archive. His targets include governmental quarantine and opportunistic bathhouse owners, one of whom is played by the director in this unreviewed film.

We did, unfortunately, get an advance look at another German satire in PFA's Recent Films from West Germany series. Daniel Helfer's *The Record* is about a man (Uwe Ochsenknecht of *Men...*) who tries to become the

world's champion couch potato. His ill effects seem to result more from staying awake so long than from watching the tube, until he ultimately becomes a human TV receiver (the flip side of *I Am a Camera?*), so the results of prolonged exposure to television were better spoofed in *Being There*. The lead performance is excellent but the rock score is inappropriate and the film should have been shot in color. (PFA, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.)

COME BACK, LITTLE FONDA

Many of you have awakened in a strange bed and perhaps not known the name of the person sharing it. When Jane Fonda wakes up *The Morning After* the man next to her is a notorious, semi-respectable pornographer. And he's dead.

"You fucked up again," laughs her estranged husband Raul Julia, a straight hairdresser(), when she asks what happened the night before. It seems she called a casting agent "a greasy diesel dyke . . . because she is," and talked herself out of her first acting job in years. The alcoholic actress goes to a gay bar (West Hollywood's Four Star, which was seen but not identified in *Making Love*) to cash a check, tries to fly to San Francisco, and borrows clothes from drag queen James "Gypsy" Haake.



Jane Fonda had a very bad *Morning After*, in more ways than one



Betty has the blues

All the gay elements may seem to be adding up to something, but they're not. Neither is the plot, which finds Jane accidentally linking up with Jeff Bridges, a redneck ex-cop from Bakersfield who talks like a bigot but is really a sweetheart. Or is he? I'm not giving away any secrets before director Sidney Lumet does, and he's in too big a hurry to give them all away before any appreciable suspense can be built up.

Even with such a lousy script I wouldn't have expected Fonda to give such a bad performance. If it was intended as self-parody the laugh's on her. Bridges is okay but Julia's even worse than Fonda.

There's one delicious but extremely cruel bit of showbiz humor when Jane describes her career: "They were grooming me to be the new Vera Miles. I was supposed to replace somebody the audience didn't know was missing." A few more bombs like *The Morning After* and Miles will be replacing Fonda! (Galaxy)

FUCKING INTELLECTUALS

If Eric Rohmer crossed *My Dinner with Andre* with *Smiles of a Summer Night* the result would be similar to Denys Arcand's *The Decline of the American Empire*. There are four Andres and four Andreas at the dinner party that follows an hour of verbal foreplay by the men and women in separate groups.

All are connected with the history department of a French Canadian university, where they can safely observe America's decline: "On the outskirts of the empire . . . the shocks are less severe." But 90-plus percent of these intellectuals' conversation is about sex. It's like watching TV news during a ratings period!

Not only do they talk about it, but thanks to flashbacks which gradually clarify the complexity of their relationships, they do it too.

Yves Jacques plays the gay character whose life is discussed as openly and nonjudgmentally as the others. You may form your own opinions, however, of his at-

titude toward AIDS — "Disease is part of sex" — with no mention of preventive measures. To him the danger is part of the pleasure. On the lighter side one of his friends asks, "Are we hetero because we're not good-looking, or would our looks improve if we were gay?"

Although none of the women are lesbian, delightful Dorothee Berryman is relieved to learn that two of the others have slept with women: "I'm always so afraid of being abnormal."

Even sextalk can get boring, but it rarely does in the witty, intelligent *The Decline of the American Empire*. (Clay)

BEINEIX-RATED

When he followed the incredibly good *Diva* with the incredibly bad *The Moon in the Gutter*, critics were quick to dismiss Jean-Jacques Beineix as just another pretty screen, incapable of creating living, breathing characters amid his lovely images.

Betty Blue is his response. In it his stars, Jean-Hugues Anglade (the gay protagonist of *L'Homme Blessé*) and Beatrice Dalle, not only live and breathe but also walk, talk, and fuck like rabbits. There is as much nudity and intimate contact as in most porno films. In short, *Betty Blue* is a love story.

Zorg (Anglade) works as a handyman but Betty (Dalle) discovers his journals and thinks he's a brilliant writer. She appoints herself his agent and sets about getting him published. Betty is volatile, the sort of character Tuesday Weld used to play so well, capable of anything in fits of rage. We know something awful is going to happen, but we don't know what or when.

Beineix hasn't neglected the look of this film, just put it in perspective with the other elements. The story seems slight, but by the time it's over you realize you've been on quite a physical and emotional journey — an existential version of *Nine 1/2 Weeks*. It's not as special as *Diva*, but it affirms the filmmaker's talent, giving us hope for his future, and perhaps the future of humankind. (Kabuki 8)

THE PRIME OF JULIE CHRISTIE

It takes *Miss Mary* too long to get rolling, but proves to be worth the wait. Julie Christie's title character is a variation on Miss Jean Brodie, another middle-

(Continued on next page)

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Lisa Duncan welcomes you to Reno

Party Sendoff

by Lauren Ward

The S.F. Pool Association celebrated the culmination of its 17th season with an awards party on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at El Rio. Prizes and trophies were handed out in recognition of the excellence of the league's top teams and individuals.

The party also served as a sendoff for the City Champion team, the DeLuxe Ducks, who'll travel to Reno this weekend to represent S.F. in West Coast Challenge XIV.

The Challenge is a semi-annual tournament in which the

champion teams and individuals from San Diego, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and S.F. compete for the overall championship represented by the perpetual silver cup. It will be held at the Five Star Saloon, 132 West St. in downtown Reno Jan. 9-11.

Besides the Ducks, S.F. will be represented by top individuals Mike Macri, T.J. Springer, Joe Ankenbrandt, and Colin Bradley, who'll be substituting for Ducks Captain Lisa Duncan.

The league's most popular tournament will be held at Park Bowl on Jan. 13. The Hi-Lo teams the highest rated player present with the lowest until the two mid-

dle rated players form the final team. The contest features a Dutch-doubles format and past experience shows everyone has a chance at victory.

The Board of Directors wishes to thank everyone who helped the league function this season. An incredible amount of energy is required to maintain this framework for amateur athletic endeavor.

Players interested in participating in the Spring '87 season should be making necessary arrangements as Sponsor fees will be due Jan. 27.

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SOFTBALL

Village Holds Practice Saturday

by Tom Vindeed

This Saturday at 11:30 a.m. the Village softball team will hold practice at Moscone Field.

It looks like Francis figures practice makes perfect and if that's the case, this year's Village team should be flawless. I can hear DeJulio now: "It will be!"

For you other aficionados of the diamond set, if you would like your practice announced in this column please let me know by calling 753-0740. The deadline is the Saturday prior to the BAR coming out on that Thursday (a week ahead, in other words—ed.).

While I'm on the subject of getting items mentioned in this column, I would like to address said topic. I have always had the best interests of the Gay Softball League in mind in my writings and sometimes even other sports and functions are mentioned. Recently I was insuited by a sponsor who asked me to "give their bar and functions a break" by listing their event, which was for the World Series. While I try to announce everything, sometimes I forget or haven't been told and it obviously doesn't get in. From now on I'll only take announcements of fundraisers in writing. Napkins or matchbooks covers need not apply. Finally, if you haven't noticed, the BAR has a super centerfold that carries a calendar of forthcoming events where you can announce your event. By the way, didn't I see the aforementioned World Series fundraiser mentioned there? A

brief note to Dianne Gregory at the BAR will usually get your function placed somewhere in the paper. For others, our advertising rates are very affordable. Enough said.

The nominations for the Cable Car Awards are all in and I'm happy to say it is probably the most deserving group to date. Tickets for the Cable Car Awards and Show go on sale this week and you may reserve a table by calling me at the number previously listed. Main-floor seating is \$30 and nominees are asked to sit on the main floor in order to move the show along. We won't wait for someone in the third balcony to get to the stage. Sorry. This year's show is at the Gift-center and will be held Feb. 28. Announcement of sports nominees will appear in the Jan. 22 issue of BAR.

The next GSL meeting will be at the Rawhide at noon on Saturday, Jan. 17.

For you GSL and other sports fans, the multi-talented athlete and all around nice guy Glen Burke is recovering nicely at SF General from a severely broken leg he suffered when hit by a car three weeks ago. Hurry up and get well, Glen. We all need that great smile.

Another under the weather person is Bob Reynolds who is battling that damn virus. Keep fighting, Bob, and happy new year.

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Team Standings

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE (Week 12 of 30 - as of 12/28/86)		3. Bow K	29	19
1. Spare Us	33	15	4. Alvin's	27 21
2. Strange Interlude	32	16	5. The Producers	27 21
3. Royalty	32	16	6. Do We Care?	27 21
4. Mary's Boys	31	17	7. After Everyone! D.J	25 23
5. Imposters	31	17	8. Damaged Goods Too	25 23
6. Eastbay Bobcats	28	20	9. El Rio Tartarugas	24 24
7. PG Gutter Girls	28	16	10. Bowling Bags	23 25
8. Hot Slots	27	21	11. Rawhide	22 25
9. Hodge-Podge	26	22	12. Pacific Coast Glass	22 26
10. Dude Theatre	26	22	13. Ron's Hardwoods	22 26
11. Jerry's Kids	26	22	14. Damaged Goods	19 29
12. Sassy	24	24	15. Foote Plumbing	19 29
13. Diner Dogs	24	24	16. CS Low Hangers	18 29
14. Boobs and Buns	23	25	17. Fore Strikes	18 30
15. Strike Force	22	26	18. Good Time Kegelers	16 32
16. Pilsner	19	25		
17. Hard Rock	18	26		
18. Tidy Bowlers	18	26		
19. Beauties and Beast	17	31		
20. Fishes And Crab	14	30		
21. Alley Cats	12	32		
22. Crowd Pleasers	3	45		

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 12 of 30 - as of 12/30/86)

1. The 69 Club	32 1/2	15 1/2
2. Meatballs II	32 1/2	15 1/2
3. Lucky Strikes	30	18
4. Hammerjacks	30	18
5. Kimo's Kows	30	18
6. Swaying Palms	30	18
7. Split Sisters	28	20
8. Pin Busters	23 1/2	24 1/2
9. Lois Lanes	23	25
10. Chez M'let Bowl'ettes	23	25
11. S'ritty Girls From Hell	22 1/2	25 1/2
12. Deadbabies	22	26
13. Easy Marks	22	26
14. Guttertrash	21 1/2	26 1/2
15. Ball Busters	20	28
16. GAG (Get A Grippers)	19 1/2	28 1/2
17. Old Crows	18 1/2	29 1/2
18. "Big Bang Theory"	18	30
19. Hopeful Five	18	30
20. Cheerleaders	16 1/2	31 1/2

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Shirley Temple's Escape From Perils Of Hollywood

MGM's practice of supplying Judy Garland with pep pills was well known in Hollywood circles, according to former child star Shirley Temple Black, who credits her closely knit family for shielding her from the disasters that consumed the lives and careers of other young stars.

"We all knew about MGM giving Judy speed," Black told Parade contributing editor Dotson Rader, who interviewed her for an article. "It never happened to me."

"I have a theory about my luck," she continued. "It seemed normal and happy for me to go to work every day. I had a fantastic childhood. I feel that young people who start in show business, if they become famous quickly—between the ages of 11 and 16, when their minds and bodies are changing—they really can't accept fame so suddenly. It goes to their heads, and they think they're the greatest thing in the world, or they feel they're failures and turn to drugs. But if you're very small and grow up through it, you don't have the problem."

Black, who began her film career at the age of three and had won an Oscar and was world-famous by the time she was six, said, "I class myself with Rin Tin Tin. People in the Depression wanted something to cheer them up, and they fell in love with a dog and a little girl."

Protected by her parents, Shirley said, "I never knew I was famous until I went on a trip. In 1937, when I was eight, my mother and I went to Hawaii. There was a tremendous crowd that met the ship and shouted for me. There was a motorcade through Honolulu to the palace, where I had to sing 'The Good Ship Lollipop' from all four sides of the palace to huge crowds. And my mother made it seem perfectly normal for thousands of people to be cheering me, as if there was nothing special going on. I thought all children must live as I did."

"It wasn't until a year later—in Boston—that I was aware of a crowd shouting, 'We love you, Shirley. We love you.' I wondered why. I asked my mother, and she said it was because my films made them happy."

Asked who she most admired among the many famous people she met, the former U.S. Ambassador to Ghana and U.S. Chief of Protocol replied, "Eleanor Roosevelt. She greatly impressed me. My family didn't like her or Franklin. Or Democrats. My mother grudgingly got to like her because Eleanor was a fascinating woman. And I liked the president a lot. Charming man, with the most wonderful voice. I had lost a tooth just before I met him. Franklin said, 'I'm concerned.' Shirley Temple is supposed to smile a lot." Well, I wouldn't smile, because I was trying to cover up my lost tooth, because I was embarrassed by it.

"President Truman was much colder," she recalled. "At the (inaugural) ball, I decided to get Truman's autograph. Some fan was getting my autograph, so I borrowed his pen. As I started for Truman's box, the Secret Service stopped me and took apart the pen. When I got it back, I handed it to Truman. He just glared at me and said, 'You should know better than that, Shirley.' He wouldn't sign any autographs, but I had to."

Karr

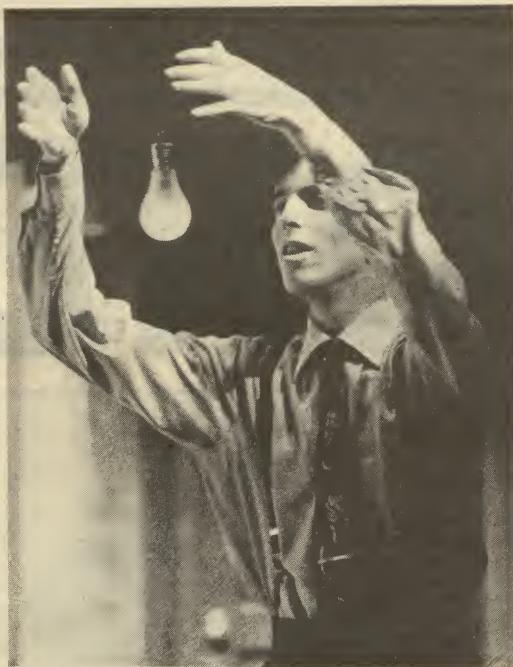
(Continued from page 27)

Like television, ACT framed the holidays with family tales, but the theater's January offering bypassed the grotesque morbidity of television's fare for a wry and rueful look at a family suffering bleak times.

Woody Allen's *The Floating Light Bulb* wasn't hailed at its New York premiere in 1981, probably because people expected a "big" play from him. *Floating Light Bulb*, instead, is quiet and small. It doesn't go for laughs, yet provides them, is emotionally honest, and is increasingly compelling as it depicts the unraveling of a woman's life.

Enid is a lively girl who married for romance instead of security. Her gadfly husband is a small-time racketeer who funnels most of his small earnings to a "doll." At home bickering has forced a younger son onto the streets and the older, 16-year-old Paul (the Allen prototype) into his bedroom where he hides in a world of magic tricks. With her resources running out, as well as her husband, Enid grabs at her son's magic in a last-ditch attempt in securing a future. It will be his career and her income. It's obvious, though, that this stammering, clumsy kid can't do it, and the attempt is heartbreakingly hilarious. In the kid's prospective agent, Enid finds a Gentleman Caller for a touching scene that is the play's heart and climax.

Allen covers familiar ground here—a shy adolescent awkwardly coming of age in a family oppressed by poverty, marital infidelity, and the forced proximity of tenement living. The play shuffles elements of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* and Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. But *The Floating Light Bulb* lifts off happily on its own, without the poetic sentimentality of Williams or the ponderous self-interest and glibness of Simon. Allen's work is closer to the realism of Odets' *Awake and Sing*, and although *The Floating Light Bulb* is a slight play, it is one that is easy to come to admire.



Liam O'Brien practices his tricks in ACT's West Coast premiere of Woody Allen's *The Floating Light Bulb*

(Photo: L. Merkle)

Despite some weak construction in Act One, abetted by the awkwardly long blackouts condemned by director Albert (Rocky Horror Show) Takazakka, the episodic scenes build confidently to the long duel of Act Two. This engaging sequence is highlighted by the son's magic act and then capped by the love scene for his mother and prospective agent. Allen's well-restrained script has been blessed in this production with an excellent cast. Joe Vincent is suitably handsome and husky as Enid's husband, so that though Nancy Carlin is hilarious as his girlfriend, when Joe started romancing her I wished I had her role. Jerry Wexler brings shabby grandeur to his broken-down agent: he can still see his dreams. Liam O'Brien (once the star of Theatre Rhinoceros' *The Conchubine at The Feast and Sing*, and although *The Floating Light Bulb* is a slight play, it is one that is easy to come to admire.

ness, and terror are palpable, his comedy tragic and his sadness funny. Best of all, Enid is played by Joy Carlin in a festival of talent. I loved her jazzy gait when she was happy, and felt deeply her despair. One of her best moments is her dilemma when her suitor makes a pass; her face a symphony of mixed emotions. She's a wonderful actress, and here has an entire play almost to herself. She goes for it, and her fans will, too.

Beaver Bauer's costumes are, as usual, swell, as is Ralph Funello's crabbed apartment. This sweet play turns out to be a worthy addition to the repertoire, and the lightbulb really does float.

★ ★ ★

Because within their different fields they gave all they had, I write with regret of the passing away of two friends. Charles Gilman, owner of the Walt Whitman Bookstore, died of complications from a non-AIDS related illness, and JW King, porn star resplendent, died of AIDS. On a happier note, we celebrate in this issue the birthdays of Jon King, Scott Taylor, Sharon McNight, and my father.

Heymont

(Continued from page 28)

writing, *A Christmas Carol* did little to change my opinion of her work.

Although I had heard many favorable reports about *A Christmas Carol* following its world premiere in 1978, once I finally got to hear it in performance I ended up feeling about as gracious toward the work as Ebenezer Scrooge. While the composer—who also conducted this performance for the Virginia Opera—managed to cajole some moments of warmth from the orchestra, the success of this production rested primarily in Bill Parcher's constant mugging as Scrooge. Although Miguel Romero's sets and Alex Reid's costumes added a strong sense of atmosphere, in the final analysis Charles Dickens wiped up the floor with Thea Musgrave's music.

The moral of the story? Two hours worth of character schtick performed by a nasty old man does not make for much of an opera.

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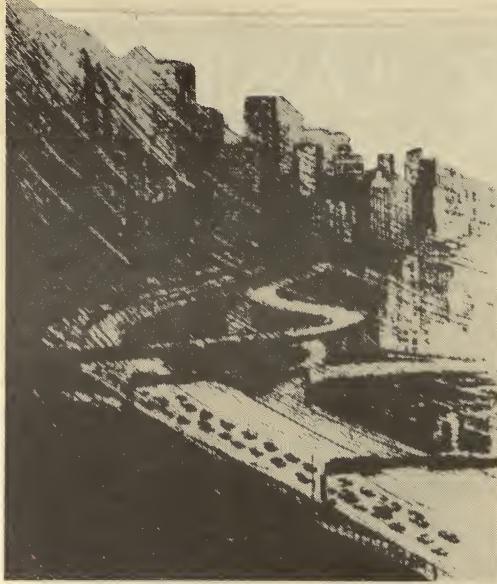
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losing sight of what they are physically leaving behind."

The Fine Art of Transition is the third in a series of pamphlets of channeled material presented free of charge by Synergy Publishers. The first two, *All Illness Is Preventable* and *The Nature Of Love And Relationships*, are also available from Synergy.

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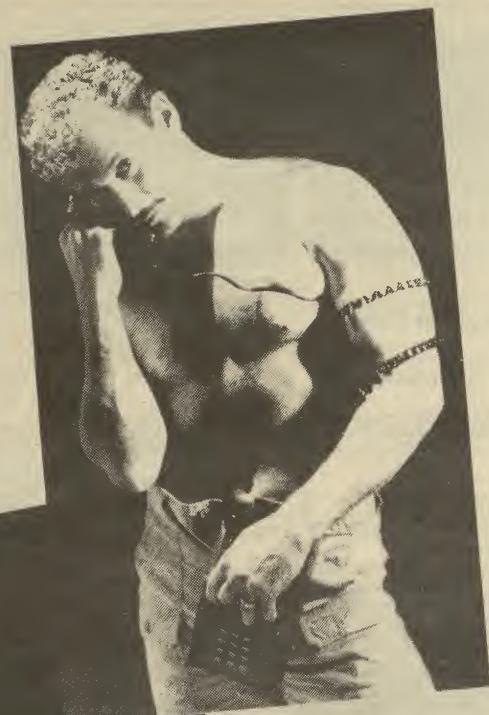
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billed to your telephone.